

Psalm 108 - Review

In part 1 we learned that the subject/title of this chapter is “*The True David’s Deliverance*”, which means we will learn how our Heavenly Father is the only *true* source of deliverance, not only for David and his ‘seed’ (i.e. the ‘true David’, Jesus Christ) but also for Israel, *and all* those who earnestly call upon His name (Jesus Christ) for help (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21). And then we also learned that, this Psalm 108 is actually a *composite* Psalm/Song formed by a combination of Psalm 57:7-11 and 60:5-12 – both of which are *Psalms of David*. And what the history of Psalms 57, and 60, teach us is how David *consistently* looked to the ‘true David’ (our Messiah, i.e. our Savior) for help (deliverance) throughout his *whole* life. And *because of that*, our Heavenly Father *always* helped (delivered) him, no matter what ‘hard times’ came upon him. And that is, of course, a *wonderful* example (1 Cor 10:11) of what we should do too.

And that’s why David began this ‘Song or Psalm’ (a form of meditating, as well as, something to be sung) by declaring to God (‘Elohiym, who is the *Supreme* God and our Creator, #430) that his heart was ‘fixed’, which means *upright*, i.e. he was *steadfast* in striving to obey our Heavenly Father. Said another way, David wasn’t ‘double minded’ (as James 1:8 and 4:8 puts it) because he worked hard to *discipline* (each day, Lk 9:23) the part of him (his heart, i.e. carnal mind) that *wanted* to sin (as Rom 8:5-8 explains). And that’s why he went on to promise he would celebrate God in song, and music, with ‘his glory’ which meant his tongue and fingers which he used to sing and play musical instruments with. And David promised to do so ‘early’ (at dawn) *and* among all people – not just in his own nation but in front of all the *other nations* who would come to Jerusalem to worship the true God, Yehovah. And that was a promise David truly ‘made good’ on - for there are *many* Psalms he wrote (even very personal ones) that he shared with the people when he became king, which is why we still have them today (thanks be to God).

So, what the first few verses, in this beautiful Psalm 108, taught us was just *how important* it is to *continue* to *earnestly* study our Heavenly Father’s Word *and* to make sure to always give Him the praise, glory, adoration and thanksgiving (spiritual sacrifices) He so very much deserves. And this is important to do, *even during the hard times*. Not only does our Heavenly Father appreciate it but, ‘counting our blessings’ - even when we’re going through hard times - helps to cheer us up in a *very profound* way; and that’s because *it re-directs our mind* (from our sufferings) *to the awesome* love, and kindness, our Heavenly Father *has towards us*. And praising Him is similar, because it re-directs our mind (again, from our sufferings) to the *awesome power* of our Heavenly Father. So, being thankful (counting our blessings) and praising Him (for all He’s done) both help to increase (tremendously) our faith (and trust) in our Heavenly Father. And *that* is a sure way to obtain His help, when we really need it.

In part 2 we learned *why* David promised (in verses 1-3) he would sing, and praise (glorify) our Heavenly Father, i.e. *because* His truth and mercy (that He governs with) *endures forever*. David

then asked the Supreme God (#430) to ‘exalt’ (i.e. manifest) Himself over all the earth, and heavens, by saving him (and Israel) from their troubles, which was likely a time they were having difficulty winning in battle. And we can conclude this because David went on to speak of God’s *unconditional* promises to give the ‘Promise Land’ (i.e. ‘land of Canaan’) to Abraham, Issac and Jacob’s descendants. And we also learned that David, not only reminded God of His promises (as we are to do, Isa 43:26), but he was also (at the same time) *encouraging himself* in God’s promises as well. And that’s why he went on to ‘lay claim’ to the land that God had promised Israel’s forefathers by claiming that he (i.e. Israel’s armies) would indeed take possession over the lands God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel. This shows that, while David was asking for God’s help, he also had *great faith* the Lord (YHVH) *would* help him (yea, all of Israel) in their military adventures.

And we also learned that this is a great lesson for us today. For even when we’re having troubles in life, we’ve got to *remember* the promises of God *and* ‘*claim*’ *them*! How do we ‘claim’ God’s promises? Simply by **obeying** what God says we must do in order for Him to give us the promises! So, just as Israel was doing ‘their part’ to conquer the territories God promises their forefathers, so too must we do ‘our part’ in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ (which is our commission *and* promise, Mth 28:18-20) as Christians (servants of Jesus Christ) today. So, just as those men had to put out the effort to fight *physically*, so too do we have to put out the effort to wage *spiritual* battle against *all* lies and deception. That’s what we put on the Gospel armor for (Eph 6)! And keeping our heart and mind clean (repenting for our sins as we see them), studying God’s Word (each day), striving to obey Him (in our words and works), using our God given gifts, and sharing the truth with others (as the opportunity arises) are *all* a part of how we ‘wage’ *spiritual* war against the enemies of Jesus Christ (which are our enemies too, when we serve Jesus Christ). But it’s also how we ‘claim’ the promises God has given us, i.e. receiving the Holy Spirit, obtaining eternal life and being allowed to rule with Jesus Christ when He returns!

In part 3 we learned how David called Moab his ‘washpot’ because Israel had *already* taken dominion over them, as well as the Philistines, which is why he said he (Israel) would triumph over them. And then he used a figure of speech (that he would ‘cast out my shoe’ over Edom) to show his confidence that he (Israel) would be able to conquer the Edomites, because to ‘throw’ your shoe over someone else’s land meant *claiming possession over it*. So, David expressed his *great* faith that the Lord (YHVH) *would* help him (Israel) take dominion over *all* the lands God promised Israel. And then David asked who would help him (Israel) conquer the ‘strong city’ that was in Edom; and this ‘strong city’ likely refers to the city Sela, otherwise known as Petra (2 Kings 14:7). So, David’s point (in posing that question) was that, if he (i.e. Israel) was to conquer the fortified city, he (they) would need to rely *entirely* on our Heavenly Father for help getting the victory. And what a *great* example this is for us today! For we too face an extremely ‘fortified’ city (Rev 17:8) which cannot be destroyed *without* the help of our Heavenly Father.

But, as Jesus so rightly pointed out, in Luke 18:27: *The things which are impossible with men **are possible with God.***

And that's why David went on to say he knew Israel would keep losing *unless* our Heavenly Father helped them. And, because of David's *great* faith in God's help, the Lord (YHVH) did help them, *just as* He will help us to *spiritually* fight during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21), when Satan himself (and his fallen angels) come to earth and try to deceive everyone into accepting their wicked governing system (the beast) *and* worship Satan as though he were God (as Rev 12, 2 Thess 2 and other Scriptures warn us about). Then we saw David (rightly) point out how useless it is to trust in mankind (or wealth or power) for help. Because our Heavenly Father is not only our Creator, but also the *Supreme* God over all (#430 'Elohim), He's the *only* one who can 'save' (help us) out of *any, and all*, kinds of situations. He's not only all-powerful, but also all-knowing - and *that's* why (and how) He can help us *no matter our situation*. If we simply keep our priorities straight (trusting in God *first and foremost*) and using discernment on when we can (or should) trust others, then we will *always* obtain our Heavenly Father's help.

And then we saw this Psalm (or Song) end with the subtitle (subscription) of '*To the chief Musician*', which means '*to He that **has** the victory*' or '*to He that **gives** the victory*' – which, of course, is Jesus Christ (as the apx 64 in the *Companion Bible* explains). And this is quite a befitting way to end this Psalm, since (in this Psalm) David has been expressing his *fervent* faith that Israel would only be able to obtain the victory (over their enemies) **if only** the Lord (YHVH) helped them. Yet again, this is an excellent example for us today (1 Cor 10:11). For, the only way we'll be able to make it through the 'great tribulation' of these end days, is **if** we *remain* firm in our faith in God's Word (Jesus Christ). For *that* (our faith in God's Word) is the *very thing* that Satan (and his fallen angels) *will attack* when they are here! That's why it's ever so important to have all of the 'Gospel Armor' on, *especially* the '**shield of faith**' (Eph 6). As Rev 12:11 says: *they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death...*

*39 But **the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.***
*40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, **because they trust in him.***

Ps 37:39-40

AMEN!