

Psalm Chapter 112 - Review

In Psalms chapter one-hundred-twelve, part 1, we learned that the subject/title of this Psalm is “***Praise for Yehovah’s Ways***”. So, while the last Psalm (111) praised the Lord (YHVH) for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘works’, this Psalm praises the Lord (YHVH) for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘ways’. This Psalm 112 is also a *perfect* Acrostic Psalm and the second of the three “Great Hallel” (Great Praise) Psalms. So, it also began with the phrase “praise ye the Lord”, which is a Hebrew phrase most Christians are actually familiar with, “*Hallelujah*”. And, while we only covered the first verse in this great Psalm, we learned a very profound (wise) truth, i.e. how to find (and keep) peace of mind, which is the *only* thing that will truly make us happy (rendered as ‘blessed’). And it’s only those who truly fear (and revere) our Heavenly Father enough to *earnestly* strive obey Him (from the heart) that will be happy. And that’s simply because obeying the Lord (YHVH) – from the heart – brings *many* blessings upon us. But, the *most important* blessing is the inner peace that comes from pleasing our Creator (YHVH). And we also learned that God’s Laws are *still* important for us to learn from today; and we should also *still* strive to obey His Commandments, Statutes and Judgments *because* they lead us in the ‘right path’, i.e. they teach us *how* to do what’s right – in our own personal life, in the government and in the courts of the nations.

Yet, we also learned *that law cannot save us*. While it’s our spiritual ‘light’ that teaches us right from wrong, it is the blood of Christ that atones for our sins *and* frees us from sin. That’s *why* Jesus came to fulfil the laws *contained in the ordinances* (such as the blood sacrifices). So, while the law is truly good, none of us (except for Jesus Christ) can obey it *all* the time, even when we are *earnestly* trying to obey God (Rom 3:23). But, the atonement Jesus Christ’s precious blood provides for us (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15) makes is so that: if we earnestly ask God for forgiveness (in Jesus’ name, John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26) and strive *hard* to put off our sins (from the heart), our Heavenly Father *will* forgive us (Rom 8). For that (striving hard to obey God, from the heart, and repenting when we fall short) is what our Heavenly Father *truly* wants from us (*instead of* rebelling against Him). And, if we *continue* to do so (John 8:31-32) we *will*, eventually, bring forth good *spiritual* fruit for our Heavenly Father. And (again) that’s what causes the Lord (YHVH) to bless us and (best of all) what gives us such *sweet* peace in our heart and mind, which is truly something to praise the Lord for!

In part 2 we learned of some blessings that come *to those who* fear (and revere) our Heavenly Father *and* greatly delight in His commandments (laws). The first of which was that, the children of those who fear (and revere) the Lord *will* have powerful influence (in many ways) in society, be it in the earth ‘at large’ and/or where they live. And, even when we live in a corrupted nation, Christians can still be a powerful influence simply by *sharing God’s Word with others*. For there is *no other* ‘force’ on earth that is more powerful than God’s Word! And then we also learned that the generation where the *majority* of people have an *upright* heart (thanks to their parents

teaching them to ‘fear’ the Lord, YHWH) will be blessed by the Lord (YHWH). So, the children of those who fear the Lord (YHWH) *are* blessed (with prosperity), and are mighty (powerful in many senses), *because* their parents ‘set the stage’ for their prosperity by *earnestly* striving to obey God. And that prosperity (blessings) *will continue on* **when** the next generation *follows* their parents ‘footsteps’, by keeping their heart upright through fearing, revering, loving and (most importantly) obeying our Heavenly Father, *from the heart*. But, once a generation comes along that *stops* fearing the Lord (YHWH), they will lose those blessings!

And then we learned that those who fear (revere) the Lord (YHWH) will have ‘wealth and riches’ in their house. And this simply goes back to the fact that the Lord (YHWH) blesses those who *obey* Him (Deut 28, Lev 26). However, we also learned this is not a promise that the Lord (YHWH) will make anyone a ‘millionaire’ for obeying Him; but simply that, those who ‘fear’ the Lord (YHWH) will accumulate (grow in) ‘riches’ insomuch that they will *always have enough*. In other words, so long as we earnestly fear (and revere) our Heavenly Father, He’ll make sure we always have what we need and ‘then some’. And we also learned that the biggest blessings in life are truly not ‘things’ (money or material ‘stuff’). Rather, it’s having *peace of mind*, which only comes from having a *good* relationship with our Creator. And there are many other blessings in life that are not material goods. Such as having trustworthy (and righteous) neighbors, friends, family, community and nation.

And we also learned that ‘light’ will arise (shoot forth) to those who are upright in heart (strive to do what’s right, *from the heart*), which is *another* promise (from our Heavenly Father) that they will indeed understand His Word and continue to learn how to better do what’s right. After all, learning God’s Word takes time; it’s a process that continues *all throughout our life*. But, if we ‘stick with it’ and don’t give up, our Heavenly Father will continue to ‘enlighten’ our inner man with the ‘light’, which is *the truth* (i.e. God’s Word, John 17:17). So, those who are upright in heart will *continue* to be given *the truth*, as they diligently, sincerely and consistently study God’s Word (for themselves, 2 Tim 2:15). And this **IS** *what* ‘enlightens’ our ‘eyes’ *with understanding* so that we can *really understand* the salvation provided to us *through* Jesus Christ. And we also learned the ‘upright’ (in heart) will be *gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous*, which are simply *spiritual* ‘fruits’ that come from *earnestly* seeking our Heavenly Father, i.e. studying His Word earnestly. In other words, those who are upright in heart will *continue* to receive God’s Word (the truth, the Light) and thus, they’ll *continue* to produce the ‘good fruits’ of being gracious (kind and merciful), compassion *and* doing what’s right (i.e. being righteous).

In part 3 we learned of *more* characteristics that those who are ‘upright’ (i.e. fear the Lord, YHWH) have. Thus, we learned they will show favor (be kind and merciful) in many ways but, they will do so *by using* good judgment (discernment) - not only with their words, but also when dealing with ‘matters’ (situations). And then we learned that the upright in heart (those who fear,

and revere, the Lord, YHVH) won't waver (slip, shake or fall) which means they won't waver (be shaken, or fall away, from) their *faith* in the Lord (YHVH). So, those who are *truly* 'upright in heart' (who fear/revere the Lord, YHVH) will have their faith grounded *so firmly* into God's Word (trusting in it) that their faith *won't* (and cannot) be shaken *no matter what* happens to them. And that's *why* their memory will *never* fade away. And, in the futuristic sense, the *reason* their memory will never fade is *because* the Lord (YHVH) will give them *everlasting* life (Rev 20:4-6). And this is quite *unlike* the wicked ones, as the last verse of this Psalm (112) declares.

And then we learned the upright ones (who fear the Lord, YHVH) won't be afraid of 'evil tidings' (*whatever* 'bad news' may be heard) because their heart is 'fixed' upon trusting in the Lord (YHVH). So, *no matter what* 'bad news' comes along, those who are righteous (upright in heart) **will** *trust* in our Heavenly Father to protect them, and help them through anything – and that's *why* they won't be afraid of any 'bad news'. After all, our Heavenly Father won't let *anything* happen to us *that we cannot handle*; He'll either give us a way to escape it or, give us the strength to get through it (1 Cor 10:13). Further, if you keep your priorities straight (loving, and serving God, *first and foremost* in life) then you won't even be afraid of dying in the flesh. After all, Jesus promised *great* rewards who are persecuted, even unto death (Mth 5:10-12). And truly, there is no better reward than *eternal* life and getting to serve in Jesus' eternal government, when He returns!

In part 4 we learned that, those who are 'upright in heart' (i.e. those who are righteous *because* they firmly have faith in, trust and 'fear' the Lord, YHVH) won't be afraid of those who come against them. And they don't fear their enemies because they *know* our Heavenly Father will help them. And that's simply because our Heavenly Father *always* helps those who firmly believe in, obey, love and 'fear' (and revere) Him! And we also learned that those who are 'upright in heart' will share (with discernment) the abundance, of what the good Lord (YHVH) has given them, with those who are *truly* poor (destitute). And further, their 'righteousness' (doing what's right) *is not short lived*; it continues on *throughout their whole life*. And because, the Lord (YHVH) will continue to bless them *and* also give them power and honor. And while this is as true now, as it was back then, this promise even looks forward to when Jesus Christ returns, when we'll be allowed to *rule with Him* (in His eternal government) *forever*.

And then we learned what the wicked ones will do *in response to* seeing those who do what's right (the righteous ones) be exalted to power. For, when those in the Body of Christ (Jesus' righteous, and eternal, government) are given the honor, *and authority*, to rule *with* Jesus - when He returns at His Second Advent (Rom 8:17) - the wicked ones will not be happy *at all*! And that's why they will 'gnash with their teeth' and 'melt away', which simply means they will be *extremely* angry, and humiliated. For not only will those who they hated, and persecuted (i.e. the Body of Christ) be exalted *over them*, the wicked ones will be deposed from power, put in prison

and *forced* to confess (*and* bow a knee to) that Jesus Christ (whom they *rebelled against*) really is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

And, lastly, we learned of one of the most comforting promises in God's Word, i.e. that the desire of the wicked *shall perish*. This means the desires (hopes and evil delights) of the wicked ones will be *totally destroyed*, never to exist again. And that's because they will (1) either have an earnest change of heart (true repentance) that destroys their wicked desires **or** (2) they themselves will be ***totally destroyed*** (as in 'blotted out' – just as the smoke of the lamb *dissipates into nothing*, Ps 37:20), in the 'lake of fire' at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20:10-15)! And that's *why* our Heavenly Father has promised us a *wonderful* eternity, where there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, pain or tears (Rev 21:4). For, the only way that can happen is if all the true 'trouble makers' (rebels who won't repent) are totally 'destroyed'... which they *will* be, as this precious Psalm 112:10 promises us! And that is why we should remember...

*7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**.*

*8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap **life everlasting**.*

*9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for **in due season we shall reap, if we faint not**.*

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Gal 6:7-10

AMEN.