Section 10, Yod, Part 2 – Faith in God's Tender Mercies

In section 10 (Yod), part 1, we learned how Hezekiah asked for the Lord (YHVH) to continue to give him understanding (to learn how to obey His Commandments) by acknowledging that He **is** *our* Creator and, that it was He who set him up (established) him so that he was a prosperous king of Judah. And this teaches us that, if we want to ask our Heavenly Father for something, it's important to acknowledge His ownership of us (as Heb 11:6 says) *and* that it is *He* that fashions us into the kind of servant *He* wants us to be. So, it's just as important for us to find our God given gifts (and use them faithfully to serve Him) as it was for Hezekiah to seek to rule his kingdom *according to* God's righteous Laws. And then Hezekiah pointed out that God's mercy (kindness) to Hezekiah (in helping him understand God's Word) would *also* be beneficial to others. Not only was the nation of Judah blessed when Hezekiah ruled according to God's Laws, but it is a comfort to others to meet (and interact with) us when we truly love, serve and have faith in our Heavenly Father, even if they are unbelievers! After all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is *most often* shared by those who live their life according to His Word and allow His Holy Spirit to guide them. And, even if we don't get a chance to plant seeds of truth every day, our *earnest* attempt at living our life *according to God's Word*, will indeed shine as a bright light to others (Mth 5:16). And to many, that is comforting because it's the *only* place they *ever* see an example of what loving the *true* God, *and obeying Him earnestly*, can do for a person. As an old song once said, ***you may be the only Bible a person ever 'reads'*!** So, while a faithful Christian is *undoubtedly* a comfort (and joy) for other Christians to be around, it can also be a comfort to unbelievers too. While some might *not* like seeing 'Christ in you'… *many others will*!

And then we learned that, when hard times came, Hezekiah didn't get on a 'pity party'. Rather, he acknowledged that, regardless of what happened to Him, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is **always** *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17). And he also knew that the Lord (YHVH) *always* hears (and helps) those who love, fear, and earnestly strive to obey Him! But, the way (and time) which he does so is up to Him; and truly, His 'ways' and timing is always *much better* than ours (Isa 55:8-9). So, even though the 'Assyrian threat' was a *very* 'trying' time for Hezekiah, he *still* glorified God's righteousness and *knew* that, even if the 'afflictions' (from the 'Assyrian threat') was not actual chastisement from God (but a test), it was *still* good for him because it *greatly* humbled him. And we must remember this when hard times come our way. While it's always good to do some honest introspection when hard times come (to see if we have any sins we have not repented for), many times our Heavenly Father *allows* 'afflictions' to come upon us simply to humble us, to strengthen our faith in Him *and*, to strengthen *our resolve to remain firmly* committed to serving Him (righteousness, Rom 6).

And then we learned how Hezekiah asked for God's merciful kindness to *continue* to comfort him through the hard times; and this was his way of continuing to 'claim' God's promise to always help us through the hard times, even by strengthen our 'inner man' with *His* Holy Spirit.

As 1 Cor 10:13 promises, our Heavenly Father *won't* let *anything* happen to us that we cannot handle; He'll either give us the strength to get through it or, the understanding to get around (or escape) it. So, as long as we *continue* to seek, serve, love and fear (revere) our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) we've got *nothing* to be afraid of. And, of a truth, when we need inner strength to get through the hard times, our Heavenly Father *will* comfort our 'inner man' (heart and mind) by sending us His Holy Spirit *to comfort our spirit* (Phil 4:6-7; Eph 3:16-21; Col 1:10-14; 2 Tim 4:17, etc.). As Isa 26:3 reminds us, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: **because** he trusteth in thee*". And again, "*He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD*" (Ps 112:7). And lastly, Ps 9:10 reminds us, "*they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee*". However, Hezkiah is not done praying for 'instruction and deliverance'…

Psalm 119
77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

So, Hezekiah *continues* to pray for help… he certainly wasn't a quitter! And, *neither should we* faint in our prays either, as Jesus also taught us (Luke 18:1-8). Now, the words '**tender mercies**' are one Hebrew word that mean ***compassion*** (in the plural) (#7356), and the word '**live**' is another word frequently used in this Psalm, albeit *not* one of the 'Ten Words'. But, it's still an important word to learn and remember, for it means ***to live*** or even ***to revive*** (#2421). So, Hezekiah asks for God to *continue* to show him compassion, for *that* is *what **revived*** his 'inner man' (heart and mind)! Said another way, *because* God has compassion on us, He *does* help us. Of course, there are stipulations to this because He *only* helps those who fear, love and earnestly strive to obey Him (Heb 11:6). And, even though we fall short at times (Rom 3:23), He will *still* help us when we *keep on* praying (for help) and *keep on* trying to obey Him! And when 'help' doesn't seem to come fast enough, Hezekiah's beautiful prayer (in this Psalm 119) is an *excellent* example of how we 'ought not to faint in our prayers' (Lk 18:1). For even though help might not come as quick as we'd like, it *will* come IF we don't give up *believing* it will. We *must have faith* our Heavenly Father *can*, and *will*, help us. Yet, we must also recognize that we've got to *continue* to endure the hard times, *with patience*, the best we can.

And truly, praying (like Hezekiah is doing) really does help us endure the hard times. As Paul wrote, we should "*Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God*" (Phil 4:6). The word '**careful**' actually means ***to be anxious about*** (#3309), so it would have been better rendered as 'worry for nothing'. So, instead of worrying, fretting, or being anxious about our troubles (or temptations) we should take it all to God in prayer! But we should *also* make sure to *thank* Him as well. Why? Because it helps us to *remember* what God has blessed us with **and** of the *many* times He's *already* helped us! And *that* helps us to realize (and remember) there's *nothing* that will happen to us that He can (or won't) help us with (1 Cor 10:13). This helps us to keep a *balanced* outlook

on our problems *instead of* worrying about them. Said another way, it helps us to keep the 'spiritual mindset' on instead of the 'carnal mindset' on (Rom 8:5-8). And when we do this (take our concerns to God *with* thanksgiving), *the peace of God* (from His Holy Spirit), *which passeth all understanding, shall* ***keep*** *your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* (Phil 4:7). The word '**keep**' here means ***to protect***, even as a military watchman does (#5432). As Paul pointed out, as we *patiently* wait for God's help (with *assurance* it's coming), the Holy Spirit helps us when we are mentally, emotionally and/or physically weak (Rom 8:24-26). And that 'intercession', from the Holy Spirit, is *exactly* what revives our 'inner man', so we *can* continue to have the faith, and assurance, that the good Lord (YHVH) *will* help us through our troubles, *yet again*.

And then Hezekiah also points out that God's '**law**' (***precept*** or ***statute***, #8451*) were his '**delight**', which means his ***enjoyment*** (#8191). So, Hezekiah *not only* enjoyed *studying* God's Word but, he *also* enjoyed learning *how to obey it*! And that's really the reason he thinks God (YHVH) should *continue* to show him mercy. For, he was *not* rebellious (hard) hearted but diligently seeking, *and* earnestly trying, to obey the Lord (YHVH). So, Hezekiah continues to point out to God *how much* he loves His Word and how *earnestly* he is trying to obey it. And that's the 'grounds' (reasons) he gives to *prove to God* that he *really is* doing 'his part' of the covenant *needed to obtain* God's promise for help (Ps 25:10), i.e. he's 'claiming' God's promises to *always* help those who love and obey Him (Deut 4:29-31; Ps 31:23, etc.). And so, we see him continue to provide an *excellent* example for us, in that he's showing us *how* to pray for 'instruction and deliverance'…

Psalm 119
78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts.

So, instead of asking something for himself, Hezekiah now asks for something for his *enemies*. And, Hezekiah *must* have studied David's many Psalms, for this verse is *a lot like* many of the Psalm's David wrote (Ps 6:10, 25:2-3, 20, 31:17, 23, 35:19, 26, 40:14, 69:4, 70:2, 86:14, 17, 109:2-3)! Now, the word '**proud**' here is the same Hebrew word that he used back in verses 21, 51 and 69. So, it still means ***arrogant*** (#2086) and comes from a prim root that means ***insolent*** (#2102). Thus, he's *still* talking about the arrogant Assyrian delegates (2 Kings 18; 2 Chron 32). And the word '**ashamed**' does mean ***to be ashamed*** but, can also mean (by implication) to be ***disappointed*** or ***delayed*** (#954). So, Hezekiah's requesting that his enemies (the arrogant Assryians) be ashamed (and disappointed). And he asks this because they are dealing '**perversely**' with him, which means ***to wrest***, which means ***to gain with difficulty by*** or, as if ***by force***, ***violence***, or *determined labor*… and that is exactly what the Assryians were threatening to do! Remember, their army came *right up to* Jerusalem, and the arrogant delegates *demanded* they surrender to the Assyrians ***or else*** they would besiege the city.

So, they *were* threatening to take Jerusalem *by force*, which is what 'perversely' here means. Yet, Hezekiah points out (to God) that they were doing so '**without a cause**', which actually means ***an untruth*** or, by implication, ***a sham*** (#8267). Back in verse 69, Hezekiah said that "*The proud have forged a lie against me*" - and that word 'lie' is #8267, rendered here (in verse 78) as '*without a cause*'. And what was their lie? They claimed Hezekiah's *trusting in the Lord* (YHVH) to save Jerusalem from them (the Assryians) *was 'in vain'* – and then (worse yet) they claimed that their God (YHVH) could *not* save them from them (the Assryians)! And that **is** *the* 'lie' they 'forged' against Hezekiah (vs 69). Thus, it's also the '*untruth*' ('without a cause') they used to *justify* dealing 'perversely' (threating to take Jerusalem by force) with Hezekiah.

But, notice Hezekiah (yet again) compares himself to the arrogant liars (the Assryians) threating to invade Jerusalem. While they were busy *blaspheming* God's Holy name (YHVH) – by saying He could *not* save Jerusalem – Hezekiah (wisely) reminds God that he would '**meditate**' (***think deeply upon***, #7878) God's '**precepts**', which is a collective term for ***God's Law*** (#6490*). So, *because* Hezekiah was a devoted servant of God, who continued to try and learn God's Laws, *and obey them* (from the heart), he humbly asks (yet again) for God to make those proud liars (and blasphemers) ashamed (and disappointed) by saving Jerusalem from them. Indeed, the Lord (YHVH) did just that – for in just one night, His 'angel' killed off 165,000 of their army! And this just goes to show us that truly, *it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God* (Heb 10:31)! So, when Hezekiah was treated wrongfully, he kept his heart, and mind, upon God's Laws (Word) and continued to earnestly pray for help; and *that's* what comforted him through the hard times. And, we shouldn't forget this example! For, just as God *well* rewarded Hezekiah for his *consistent*, and *earnest*, prayer so too will He deal with us!

Psalm 119
79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

Now Hezekiah turns his attention to those who 'fear' the Lord (YHVH) and have known His testimonies. The word '**fear**' here again means ***to fear*** and/or ***revere*** (#3373) while the word '**known**' means ***to know***, i.e. *to ascertain by seeing* - in a great variety of senses, including (literally and figuratively) *observation, care, recognition* and (causatively), *instruction, designation, punishment*, etc.) (#3045). And the word '**testimonies**' means ***a testimony*** (#5713*) which means that they are God's 'witness' (and warning) to us of *what happens* when we **do** obey Him verses what happens when we **do *not*** (ex: Deut 27:15-26, 28, 31:19-22, Lev 26, Isa 5:8-22, Mth 5:3-12, 23:13-29, etc.). And then the word '**turn**' means ***to turn back, retreat*** or ***again*** (#7725). So, what Hezekiah is most likely speaking about are, those men who were in *his* army. Remember, the Assyrian delegates *specifically* spoke *in the Hebrew language*, and shouted loudly at, the military men guarding the walls of Jerusalem. And they not only called Hezekiah a *liar,* but also told the military men that, if they trusted in what Hezekiah said (i.e. he commanded them *not* to surrender because the Lord, YHVH, would save Jerusalem) they would end up

drinking their own piss and eating their own poo (1 Kings 18, 2 Chron 32)! And, while Hezekiah himself didn't see this, his delegates did tell him about it. So, he was apparently concerned that his military *might* surrender, due to the *intense* phycological war the Assryians were waging against his army. So, here (in vs 79) he prays to the Lord (YHVH) that his army would remain loyal to him, i.e. not surrender to the Assryians. You could even say he's asking that those in the army (who he believed did fear God and did know His testimonies) would remember *how strong* Hezekiah's faith was that he Lord (YHVH) *would* save them, for he specifically spoke to them about this…

6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,
7 ***Be strong and courageous****, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him:* ***for there be more with us than with him:***
8 ***With him is an arm of flesh****;* ***but with us is the LORD our God to help us****,* ***and to fight our battles****. And* ***the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah****.*
2 Chron 32:6-8

So, we know that the army 'rested' (were comforted by) Hezekiah's words of encouragement, i.e. that the Lord (YHVH) *would* help them. So, he's simply asking God that his army would *remain* loyal (not surrender) and not be brainwashed by the lies of the Assyrian delegates. And this request is quite understandable; for had the army guarding Jerusalem surrendered, there would have been *no way* the people living in the city could withstand the Assryians. And, even though the Assyrian army *promised* to deal kindly with them, there was (and is) *no good reason* to trust people who worship false gods and idols! And, what we can learn from this part of Hezekiah's prayer is how good (and wise) it is for us to pray for our fellow Christians. As the apostles point out (Eph 6:18; Col 1:3, Col 4:3; 1 Thess 5:17-25; 2 Thess 1:11-12, 3:1-2; Heb 13:18; James 5:14-16m etc.), earnestly praying for the 'saints' (fellow Christians) is indeed something we *should* do. So, we *should* pray that our fellow Christians remain *firm* in their faith in God (and Jesus Christ) and *not* be seduced into believing the lies of the false prophets, priests, preachers, teachers, etc. And, that will be *all the more* important as the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21) draws near (Heb 10:23-25)!

Psalm 119
80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

So, after prying for God's tender mercies (kindnesses) to come to him, asking that the proud (arrogant ones) be ashamed (and disappointed), and then praying for his army to remain faithful to him (and the Lord, YHVH), Hezekiah finishes up with another request for himself. The word '**heart**' is (again) referring to our *spiritual* heart (not the *physical* organ that pumps our blood), which is the part of our ***intellect*** (spirit) that has our '***will***', i.e. our feelings, emotions, desires,

intentions and motivations (#3820) [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017]. And the word '**sound**' here means ***entire*** (i.e. complete) as well as ***integrity*** or ***truth*** (#8549) while the word '**statutes**' means ***a decree*** or ***ordinance*** (#2706*). So, Hezekiah's essentially asking that God would help his inner man be full of understanding His statutes (i.e. how to govern those in Jerusalem) so he wouldn't be '**ashamed**' (or ***disappointed,*** #954), i.e. so he *wouldn't* see his army surrender to the Assryians. So, it wasn't *only* important for Hezekiah to continue to fervently trust in God's promise to help them; it was *also* important for him to keep the morale of his army up. And he did this by encouraging them to trust in the Lord (YHVH) *like he did*! And, without a doubt, Hezekiah's firm faith in God was clearly something the soldiers *could see in him*, when he spoke to them (2 Chron 32:6-8) – so, Hezekiah was praying that God would help his army to *remember* his words of encouragement (to trust in God) so they *wouldn't* be moved, by fear, into surrendering to the Assyrians!

And really, this is not too much different than what those, who remain *faithful* servants to the Lord (YHVH), will do during the 'great tribulation'. For they too will be encouraging others to *remain faithful to*, and *trust in*, the **true** God (and Christ Jesus) – *even though* a supernatural being (i.e. Satan, who is *the* 'antichrist' - https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345) will come with *extremely* powerful lies and miracles [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380]! In other words, those who know better will be warning people *not* to worship the first supernatural being who comes to earth claiming to be 'God' (our Savior)! For the truth is that Satan will be kicked out of heaven (with his fallen angels, Rev 12) *before* the true Christ returns. And, when he is here, he will indeed be doing great miracles, and lying a lot (really well) to deceive the world into worshiping him *and* allowing him to set up (and rule) a worldwide government (the 'beast') (Rev 12-13, etc.). And, because many Christians are taught they'll be raptured out before the 'great tribulation' comes, most won't be spiritually prepared for this, as the studies on **Apostasy** reveal [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499]. That's why it's important for us to pray for them, and witness to them (as the Holy Spirit guides us to) at that time…

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
18 How that they told you ***there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.***
19 ***These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit****.*
20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ ***unto eternal life.***
22 ***And of some have compassion, making a difference:***
23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now ***unto him that is able to keep you from falling****, <u>and</u>* ***to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,***
25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 17-25

We'll pick this up in section 11 (Caph)…

AMEN.