Section 13, Mem, Part 1 – Wiser Than

In section 12 (Lamed), part 2, we learned the importance of *remembering* God's Word, for it is the only thing that 'quickens' us, i.e. it revives us *spiritually*. For, through all Hezekiah's inner turmoil, and outward afflictions from the 'Assyrian threat', God's Word is *what* gave him the strength, guidance, understanding, and comfort he needed to endure the *intense* phycological war the Assyrians were waging against him. And, of a truth, God's Word is what will *always* give us the internal strength, guidance, understanding, and comfort *we* need to make it through *all* the hard times that comes against us, even *spiritual* attacks like Hezekiah experienced. And hard times (and *spiritual* attacks) *will* come, *if* we are *faithfully* serving Jesus Christ. For, of a truth, we are not fighting against flesh and blood; but spiritual warfare against *powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places* (Eph 6:12), which is why we must put on (keep and use) the *whole* armor of God, so we *can* withstand the 'evil day' (i.e. the 'great' tribulation, Mth 24:21) when it comes (Eph 6:13) – for it is coming.

And then we saw Hezekiah *again* acknowledge that he was God's servant and asked for Him to save him from the 'Assyrian threat'. So, Hezekiah continued to 'claim' God's promises by explaining how he felt he was doing 'his part' to receive them, as God has told us to do (Isa 43:26). And then we saw Hezekiah (again) compare himself to his oppressors. For, while the Assryians were impious, ungodly and looking to rob Jerusalem, Hezekiah *still* was careful to *stay focused on*, and *trying to obey*, God's Word. And *that's* what 'quickened' (revived) his inner man with the hope (assurance) God *would* help him through this difficulty, just as He *always* did before! Again, this is an excellent example for us. For there's no temptation (or tribulation) that our Heavenly Father won't help us through, *so long as* we continue to seek, hear, and earnestly obey Him (1 Cor 10:13).

And then Hezekiah made a very important point, i.e. that all things in this fleshly dimension have a 'limit' or, said another way, an 'end'. For, just as a flower has a time to bloom but then it fades away, so does our flesh body flourish when we are young… but then we age and eventually die. And this teaches us that, while there are times in our life where things seem to be going well, there will also be times when they are not… but *neither lasts forever*. And just as important, we should also remember that, while the wicked people on earth may seem to flourish, that will *not last forever* (Psalms 37); for they will eventually die, as do all those who are righteous (i.e. serve God wholeheartedly). But, Hezekiah's main point was that: while there truly is a 'limit' (end) to all things in this flesh realm (dimension) - both good and bad - this is not so with our Heavenly Father. For there is *no end*, or *limit*, to Him *or* His Word – for He (and His Word) truly endures *forever*. And, if we want to live eternally, we *must* receive (and keep) His Word (and Holy Spirit) *within us*! For, while *the world passeth away, **and** the lust thereof, he that **doeth** the will of God **abideth for ever*** (1 John 2:15-17).

And now we come to the ***thirteenth*** 'section' of this beautiful Acrostic Psalm. So, all the verses begin with the Hebrew letter "Mem", which is equivalent to the letter "M" in the English language (the *Companion Bible* points this out). And *this* section could be considered a "**Yehovah's Word, the Source of Wisdom**". So, while the entire Psalm speaks about the "*Quickening and Sustaining, by the Revealing [Written] Word*" (Deut 8:3; Luke 4:4; Matt 4:4), this particular section *really focuses* on how to obtain God's (righteous) wisdom (*James 3:14-18*) from His 'quickening' (Living *and* revitalizing) Word. And let's also remember that, it's most likely king Hezekiah who penned this Psalm, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, of course. And, *all scripture is given by inspiration of God,* ***and*** *is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works* (2 Tim 3:12-17). So, there is much for us to learn from this precious Acrostic Psalm…

Psalm 119
97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

So, now Hezekiah begins to declare his *great* love for God's Laws. The word '**love**' here means ***to have affection for*** (#157) and the word '**law**' (again) means ***a precept*** or ***statute***, especially the Decalogue or Pentateuch (#8451*). And it comes from the very word rendered as 'teach' back in verse 34 (#3384). So, God's Law *teaches,* and *instructs,* us what we should (or should not) do, "*for by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Rom 3:20). "*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good"* (Rom 7:12). So, Hezekiah truly had *great* (fervent) affection for God's Laws, which means He *also* truly loved the Lord (YHVH). And, that is what our Heavenly Father wants *more than anything*! After all, it is the *first* (and the *most important*) Commandment (Ex 20:3-5; Matt 22:36-38). However, we must understand that God's 'love language' is *obedience*! That's *why* Moses, *not only* told Israel that they should love God with *all* their heart, soul and might (which Jesus reiterated, Mk 12:30), *but also* that His Words *needed* to be *in their heart* ***so they could obey them*** (Deut 6:4-9)! And this shouldn't be hard to understand. When we truly love someone, we *do* want to please them. And, if someone says they love you, but continue to do things that *greatly* offend, and hurt, you… do you really believe them when they say they love you? Of course not! And neither does our Heavenly Father believe those who *claim* they love Him but, their heart is *far from Him* (Isa 29:13) because their actions *prove* they *don't love Him* – for when they are not even *trying* to do that which pleases Him, they clearly do *not really* love Him, *or* His Holy Word (Mth 15:7-20; Mk 7:6-23).

And that's why Hezekiah goes on to explain how *hard* he worked to put, and keep, God's Words in his heart, i.e. he said God's law was his '*meditation all the day*'. The word '**meditation**' here means ***reflection*** and (by extension) can even mean ***devotion*** (#7881). And 'reflection' here simply means to *consider* or *think deeply upon*; so 'mediation' is a good translation. And then the word '**day**' can mean ***a day*** or (figuratively) ***a space of time defined by an associated term***

(#3117). So, Hezekiah could be saying he meditates upon God's Word *all day* but, he's likely saying that meditating upon God's Word is a part of his *daily* life – *all the days* of his life. And this truly is how much we too *should* love God's Word. It *should* become a part of our daily thought process and our main 'inward motivator' in life (1 Pt 4:1-2). While our Heavenly Father doesn't want us to be a fanatic (i.e. *constantly* quoting Bible verses or going around telling everyone else how much they sin, etc.), God's Word should indeed be *the* 'love of our life'. Said another way, God's Word should be what we (first and foremost) 'set our heart upon'. And, when we do that, it *will* impact the way we think, what we desire, how we speak and what we do – in a *very* positive way that reflect the righteous values God's Word imparts to us.

Psalm 119
98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

So, now we begin to see *why* Hezekiah loves God's Laws so much. The word '**commandments**' again means ***a command***, whether human or divine and can also be used, (collectively) for God's Law (#4687*). So, he's referring to God's *Ten* Commandments, or even to *all* of God's Laws. And the word '**wiser**' means ***to be wise***, *in mind, word* or *act* (#2449) while the word '**enemies**' means ***hating*** or an ***adversary*** (#341). So, Hezekiah recognized that God's Word gave him wisdom *far above* his enemies; and that's because they (God's Commandments) were '**ever**' with him, which can mean ***eternity*** but, in the context of this verse, means ***always*** (#5769). Yet, they are *only* with us 'always' when we 'write them upon our heart' (Deut 6:4-9; Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10, 10:16) - i.e. when we study them earnestly, *and meditate upon them* (as Hezekiah did) then they truly are with us *always*. And remember, God's Law *teaches,* and *instructs,* us what we should (or should not) do, "*for by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Rom 3:20). So, God's Word does give us wisdom *far above* our enemies. Why? Because God's wisdom is the *good* kind of wisdom! As James 3:13-18 points out, Satan has wisdom too… only his wisdom is *very evil* and is based upon the *carnal lusts*, not on God's Word. So, we should seek out God's Wisdom, because that's the *only* thing that will make us *wiser* than our enemies. And, as Prov 9:10 points out, the beginning of wisdom is to 'fear' (and revere) the Lord (YHVH); for knowledge of Him (who is holy) is the *only* way we can truly get understanding of how to live life in a way that we'll have peace of mind, comfort, protection and blessings from God.

And James 1:5-7 also points out that, if we feel we're lacking in godly wisdom, we should ask our Heavenly Father for it (via prayer). For He *liberally* (generously) gives us His wisdom when we *study* His Word each day *and ask* Him for help understanding it. And, as Jesus said in Luke 11:9-13, we should *continue* to **ask** (in prayer), **seek** (by studying God's Word) and '**knock**' (honestly explaining why we want/need something) and our Heavenly Father will give us what we ask for (if it's good for us), *especially* if we're asking for more wisdom! And Jesus made an important point, in verse 13, when He said, "*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts*

unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit ***to them that ask him***?" And how true that is! So, our Heavenly Father does want us to have His wisdom, because it's righteous. In other words, wisdom from God teaches us *how to do what's right* and *how to overcome our enemies*, as Hezekiah also points out here (in Ps 119:98). As Jesus told the apostles, "*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves*" (Matt 10:16). So, even though we live in a world where there are wicked people (even some who claim to be Christian but are merely pretenders), we should learn to be wise *but* harmless as doves. This means we must learn to be **wise** ***to do what's right*** and not *wise to do evil*, as Satan (and those who follow him) are!

And, of a truth, studying (and meditating upon) God's Word *does* make us wiser, and more powerful, than Satan, and those who follow him. For example, in 2 Chron 32:2-8 we're told how, when Hezekiah realized the Assyrian army *was* going to come down to fight against Jerusalem, he worked with his rulers (princes) to redirect the water sources near to them so that it flowed steadily under Jerusalem but, was *not* available to the Assryians! And he also shored up the walls surrounding Jerusalem, built up a stock of miliary weapons, and morally strengthened his military, by reminding them that God (YHVH) would help them, so they shouldn't be afraid of the Assyrian army. So, while Hezekiah truly trusted in the Lord (YHVH) to help (save) them from the Assyrian army, *he still did all he could do*. And that's what godly wisdom is all about! For, our Heavenly Father *doesn't* want us to be lazy (Mth 25:26-30; Heb 6:12), and think He will do *everything* for us. We should so *what we are able to do* and then ask for Him to take care of *what we cannot*. So, as long as we continue to study, and mediate upon, His Word *each day*, our Heavenly Father will continue to give us His wisdom that makes us wiser than our enemies. *And*, His wisdom will *always* be with us *as long as* we keep it in our heart, and mind, through *consistent* study of His Word and *mediating* (thinking deeply) *upon* it!

Psalm 119
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

And now Hezekiah *continues* to explain why He loves God's Law. The word '**understanding**' means ***to be*** (or ***make***, or ***act***) ***circumspect*** (i.e. careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences) and hence, also means ***intelligent*** (#7919). And the word '**teachers**' is a word we've seen before. So, by now we know that it means ***to goad*** and thus, (by implication) also means ***to teach*** (the rod being an Oriental incentive, #3925). And, as a reminder, a 'goad' is a stick with a *sharp end* on it, which was (and is) used to *prick animals* (like cows and such) to 'get them going' *in the right direction*! So, even though Hezekiah's teachers may have tried to point him in the right direction of God's Laws, there's *no better teacher* than God Himself! Said another way, through His Written Word, God teaches us with His *Divine* wisdom. And truly, it is the Holy Spirit (which **is** the Spirit *of truth*) that helps us to *truly* understand God's Word and how to apply it in our everyday life (John 16:13). So, while Hezekiah had earthly teachers, he

considered God Himself to be his 'best' teacher, because being Divinely taught Divine wisdom is *better* than *anything* else! As Prov 2:4-7 tells us, if we seek God's Divine wisdom (from His Word) as we'd seek out silver, gold (or other hidden treasures), then we'll *understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For,* ***the LORD giveth wisdom****: out of his mouth cometh* ***knowledge*** *and* ***understanding****.* ***He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous****: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly*. So, when we earnestly seek our Heavenly Father's wisdom, we will find it, so long as we're truly seeking with all of our heart, mind and strength (Deut 4:27-31; Jer 29:10-14; 1 Chron 28:9, 2 Chron 15:2).

And then Hezekiah explains *why* he had more understanding than all his teachers. It was because he meditated upon (reflected, i.e. deeply thought about, #7881) God's '**testimonies**', which does mean a ***testimony*** (#5713*); hence, 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.). So, all the 'teaching' in the world cannot compare to the education we get when we study God's Word, for ourselves, with *all* our heart, mind and soul. For, *if* we seek God's wisdom **from His Word,** *as earnestly as* we'd seek for hidden earthly treasures, then we **will** *indeed* find (and receive) the hidden treasures in God's Word, i.e. wisdom, understanding, peace of mind (etc.)! As it is written, our Heavenly Father **is** able to do *exceeding abundantly* ***above*** *all that we ask, or think,* ***because of*** the power of His Holy Spirit that worketh *within us* (Eph 3:16-20)!

Psalm 119
100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Yet again, Hezekiah continues to explain *why* He loves God's Law. Not only did it make him wiser than his enemies, and his earthly teachers, but it also made him wiser than the 'ancients'. The word '**understand**' here means ***to separate mentally*** (or ***distinguish***), i.e. (generally) ***to understand*** (#995). And the word '**ancients**' simply means ***old*** (#2205) and comes from a prim root that means ***to be old*** (#2204). So, it's referring to the ***elders***, or ***aged ones***, of his day. And normally, those who are older than us *do* have more wisdom, simply because they have more *experience* in life. However, if they don't love (and study) God's Word, someone who is younger, and *does* love (and study) God's Word, will *undoubtedly* have more wisdom, and understanding, than their elders. And that's because they are being 'Divinely' taught *by God's Word*, instead of being taught by those who are 'wise' in the 'ways of the world'! And that's why Hezekiah points out that he kept God's precepts. The word '**keep**' here is *not* the same Hebrew word we've seen used many times before (*shamar*, #8104) but, it's *very* similar in meaning. The Hebrew word here is *natsar* (#5341), a prim root that means ***to guard*** and is being used in a *good* sense, i.e. ***to protect, maintain, obey***, etc. And the word '**precepts**', is a ***collective term for God's Law*** (#6490*).

So, when we are taught by God's Word, we are indeed wiser, and understand more, than those who don't study God's Word, or delight in it. And truly, many Christians do study God's Word *but,* it's not with understanding *because* they study it with 'traditions of man' in their mind. And, since 'traditions of man' are *not true* (i.e. they pervert God's Word), they actually make God's Word 'void' (or useless) to those who try and study His Word (Mth 15, Mk 7)! That's why simply going to Church does *not* automatically make you a Chrisitan, as the study **Church is not Christianity** explains [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212]. Only those who truly *do* love His Word *will* digest it, and make it a part of how they think, what they desire, what they say and what they do! And so, while it's a blessing to have a good teacher, who is filled with God's wisdom (because they do actually study God's Word earnestly), we *still* need to learn to study God's Word *on our own*. For, without learning how to study God's Word *on our own*, it's *impossible* to develop a true, intimate, relationship with our Heavenly Father (via His Holy Spirit within us).

And we *need* to have a *strong* relationship with our Heavenly Father (via the Holy Spirit, given to us when we believe in, and follow, Jesus Christ) so we can learn how to obey God's Word *no matter what comes up in life*. Further, we also need to learn how to truly *hear* God's Holy Spirit [https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39, https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/476] so we are *not* deceived into believing lies - either from our own carnal mind or, from evil spirits (1 John 4:1). Moreover, while it's great to have strong Christians (who actually knows, and obeys, God's Word) in our life (who can share us the godly wisdom they've obtained over the years), it's only our Heavenly Father who can help us out of any, and all, kinds of situations. So, if we continue to earnestly study God's Word, and think deeply upon it throughout the day (i.e. meditate upon it), our Heavenly Father *will* make us wiser than our enemies, wiser than all our carnally minded teachers and wiser than all the elders who refused to study God's Word (1 Cor 1:25) …

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
10 But ***God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit****: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*
11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12 Now ***we have received****, not the spirit of the world, but* ***the spirit which is of God****;* ***that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.***
13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, ***but which the Holy Ghost teacheth****; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? ***But we have the mind of Christ.***
1 Cor 2:9-16

We'll pick this up in part 2, of this 13th section (Mem)…

AMEN.