Section 8, Cheth, Part 2 – We Must Not Forget

In section 8 (Cheth), part 1, we learned *how* to 'claim' God's promises, for Hezekiah gave us an *excellent* example of how to do that. For, he not only pointed out that he chose the Lord (YHVH) to be his portion (i.e. God's ways are how he would live his life) but, he *continued* to humbly, and sincerely, intreat the Lord (YHVH), for help, by *reminding* God how *earnestly* he was striving to obey His righteous Laws. And that's why he *also* reminded God that he *really was* searching his heart, and mind, to see any sins - *and*, that he was *quickly*, *earnestly* (*without* hesitation) striving to change them *back to* the 'path of righteousness', which is to say back to God's 'ways'. So, we should be careful to remember this precious Psalm and, when need be, go back and study it – *especially* when we need some 'quickening' (*spiritual* reviving) in our own life! For Hezekiah sets forth *one of the best* examples of *how* God's Word truly does *quicken* our inner man (*spiritually* revives us) IF we are willing to seek Him with <u>all</u> our heart (and mind), look *honestly* within our own heart, and mind, make the necessary changes (without hesitation) and *continue* to strive to *obey* the Lord (YHVH) *wholeheartedly*. And, of a truth, our efforts will <u>not</u> be 'in vain', just as they were not 'in vain' for Hezekiah. However, Hezekiah is *not* done teaching us how to 'claim' God's promises…

Psalm 119
61 The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.

Now, this is *another* verse that points to *strong* likelihood that Hezekiah *was* the one who penned this Psalm. The word '**bands**' here means (in the context of this Psalm), figuratively, ***a company*** (as if tied together) (#2256). And the word '**wicked**' here is the Hebrew word ***rasha***`, which means ***a morally wrong*** or ***an actively bad person*** (#7563). And, as apx. 44 x in the *Companion Bible* explains, this refers to wickedness in the sense of the restless activity of the fallen nature, i.e. the *impious, ungodly* and/or *robbers*. And then the word '**robbed**' actually means (in the context of this verse) ***to encompass***, i.e. ***surround*** (#5749). So, the first part of this verse is simply referring to the army of the Assryians who surrounded Jerusalem, threatening to lay siege to it *if* they didn't surrender. Yet, even during that stressful time, Hezekiah points out that He did <u>not</u> forget God's Law. The word '**forgotten**' here means ***to be oblivious of - from want of memory*** or ***attention*** (#7911), and the word '**law**' 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).

So, even though the Assyrians had already invaded (and taken away captive) the northern kingdom of Israel, *and* had <u>also</u> taken *all* the fenced cities in the southern kingdom of Judah (*except for* Jerusalem), Hezekiah *didn't* let this change his *fervent* commitment to obeying our Heavenly Father. That also means he didn't let his fears control him, i.e. he still remembered to

obey God's Law *even in* the midst of *great* tribulation. And what a great example that is for us! For, fear is such as *strong* emotion that it can easily cause us to *not think clearly*. That's why it's **so** important for us to learn to discipline our emotions, no matter how strong they are. For, when times get hard, *that's* the time we need *focus* on God's Word (*and* pray for help) *the most*. But we've also got to be *listening* (with a clear mind, not fogged up with fear or other negative emotions) for guidance from our Heavenly Father (YHVH).

And while there are many examples of this in the Bible (both in the negative, and positive sense, 1 Cor 10:11), one of the best (regarding what we should *not* do) can be found when we look to how the apostles handled Jesus' arrest. For, even though Jesus had clearly warned them that He *would* be arrested, tried, condemned to death *and executed* (Mth 17:22-23; Lk 18:31-33; Mk 10:32-24) … the apostles *still* fled like 'scattered sheep'! And that was *despite the fact* that Jesus even told them that's *exactly* what *would* happen, and *despite the fact* they all *swore* they'd *never* do such a thing (Matt 26:31-35). Yet, because it *fulfilled prophesy* (Mk 14:27, Zech 13:7), they *did* <u>all</u> scatter (like sheep) when He was arrested (Mth 26:56; Mk 14:50). And why did they do such a thing? After all, Peter was truly willing to fight for Jesus; we know this because John 18:10 tells us he lopped off the ear of one the high priest's servants when he got too close to Jesus. So, what scared them so much they would flee? It was only *after* Jesus told Peter to put up his sword (not fight) - because the Scriptures *had* to be fulfilled - that the apostles fled (John 18:10-11; Luke 22:49-51; Matt 26:50-54). So, their fear only came *after* they realized Jesus wasn't going to fight back (and didn't want them too, either) and… they too might be arrested!

So, this is *why* we must learn to discipline our emotions – so we can *remember* God's Word. For, it *was* written (as Jesus pointed out to the apostles) that He *had* to be betrayed, arrested, tried, condemned to death and executed (ex: Isa 53, Zech 12:10, Ps 22, 69, 32;5, 34:20, 16:8-11, 109:24-25, etc.). But, because the disciples forgot what was written (and what Jesus warned them *was* coming), they let their emotions control them and… they all ran, just as sheep do when they are scared. However, this is not to their discredit - for they *had* to do this, as it was prophesied of too (Zech 13:7). Further, many of them *did* end up giving their lives for serving Jesus Christ. But it is still a good example to us, what happens when we don't control our emotions. For there is a time coming that we too could be arrested for following Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus warned us of this as well (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19). And, He *specifically* told us ***not*** *to worry about* (premeditate) *what we'll say* when (if) we are 'delivered up' to councils, synagogues, governors, kings, and other rulers (for His sake) because the Holy Spirit **will** speak through us… so long as we *don't* let our negative emotions control us! So, we've got *discipline* our emotions, and *trust in God* to send His Holy Spirit, to give us the words to say. After all, we'll be delivered up <u>for</u> Jesus' sake, i.e. because we refuse to worship Satan (the antichrist) and his wicked beast governing system. And God wants to use (at least some of) His faithful servants for a testimony *against* the wicked rulers on earth. As Jesus said, *the gospel* ***must*** *<u>first</u> be published among all nations*, *for a witness unto <u>all</u> nations* before 'the end' (i.e. Jesus' return) can come (Mk 13:10;

Matt 24:15). So again, that's why we *must* learn (now) to *control our emotions*, and *not forget* what God's Word tells us, so **if** the Lord (YHVH) wants to use us to witness through, during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21), then we *will be ready* to *allow* Him to do so!

Psalm 119
62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

So, even though Hezekiah was surrounded by the wicked Assyrian army, he wasn't about to forget God's Laws. And now he promises to '**rise**' (which does mean ***to rise***, #6965) at '**midnight**' which is a combination of two words. One means ***the middle*** (#2676) and the other means ***night*** but, can *also* mean (figuratively) ***an adversity*** (#3915). So, in the context of this verse, Hezekiah is likely saying that, even in the 'middle of his adversity' (the Assyrian threat) he would *still* rise to give '**thanks**' (***revere*** and/or ***worship***, #3034) unto the Lord (YHVH). And why? Because of His '**righteous**' (***right, just, upright***, $6664*, #6663*) '**judgments**', which means ***a verdict, judgment, justice,*** or ***vindication*** (#4941*, #8199*). So again, even though Hezekiah was in the middle of great adversity, he *promised* to *continue* to give thanks (revere and worship) to the Lord (YHVH) because *he had faith* that His righteous judgments (just vindication) *was going to come* upon the wicked Assyrian army… who were waging an *intense* phycological war against him, and those in Jerusalem.

And this (again) is good for us to remember. For, when hard times come, we *need* to *trust in* our Heavenly Father's righteous judgments *even more*! For He has *promised* to deliver the righteous out of the hands of the wicked **if** we seek Him wholeheartedly *and* earnestly try to obey Him (Deut 4:29-31). As Ps 145:20 also points out, *the LORD preserveth* [#8104] *all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy*. That's why Psalms 37 tells us not to 'fret' (worry or get frothingly angry about) the evildoers, nor to be envious of them (vs 1) - for 'their day' of punishment **is** coming (vs 13). And, while the evildoers *will* be 'cut off' (killed and/or punished) those who wait (#6960) on the Lord (YHVH) *will* inherit the land (vs 9), just as Jesus has told us (Isa 24:17-23; Matt 13:40-42, 47-50, Matt 24:29-31, 25:31-46; Mark 13:24-27). So, even though we will see the wicked people of the earth (evildoers), along with the wicked angels (Satan and his fallen angels) gain control of the earth, it won't last long! Jesus Christ will return to earth to depose the wicked ones and given control of the earth (under His guidance and rule) to His faithful followers (Matt 21:40-44, Rev 20:4-6, etc.).

So, even in the midst of the soon coming 'great tribulation' (which ***will*** be *great* adversity, for those who remain faithful to the *true* Jesus Christ), we too should remember this verse; and give thanks (revere and worship) to the Lord (YHVH) for His righteous judgments *we know are soon to come*. For, in our heavenly Father's Word, we're *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth *will* be convicted, *and die*, by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of *their own* devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming*

out of their mouths which they've used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father's kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12).

Psalm 119
63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

So, after Hezekiah points out how faithful he's been to the Lord (YHVH), despite his great adversity, he now continues to 'make his case' for why God *should* help him. In other words, he is continuing to 'claim' God's promises by explaining how he has *fulfilled the conditions* to obtaining His Promises. And he makes a really good point here. The word '**companion**' means ***an associate*** (#2270) and comes from a prim root that means ***to join*** (literally or figuratively) (#2266). And the word '**fear**' here means either ***to fear*** (as in be frightened) or ***to revere*** (#3372). And truly, we *are* supposed to 'fear' the Lord (YHVH) in *both* senses. For we should fear God in that we *fear to do evil* (Prov 16:6) but, we should also revere Him by giving Him the great honor, praise, love, adoration (etc.) He *truly* deserves. And the word '**keep**' here is (yet again) the Hebrew word ***shamar***, which means ***to hedge about*** (as with thorns), i.e. ***guard*** and (generally) also means ***to protect, attend to***, etc. (#8104). So, it's not only speaking of **obeying** God's Word (from the heart) but also **to guard** *and* **protect it** from anyone who wants to pervert it. And lastly, the word '**precepts**' is a ***collective term for God's Law*** (#6490*).

So, Hezekiah points out (to the Lord, YHVH) how he has chosen his associates (friends and counselors) *wisely*. For he *purposely* refused to associate with wicked people, and sought out those who fear (and revere) the Lord (YHVH) instead, i.e. those that keep (guard and protect) God's righteous precepts (Laws). And, this is likely *also* referring to the kind of people he sought to be in his governmental administration too. For, it would have been *very* difficult for him to do the righteous things he did (as king) if he had not had support from his administration. After all, he removed the illegal 'high places' of worship in the southern kingdom of Israel, and cut down the groves – i.e. places where they worshiped idols and did lascivious things (2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chron 31:1-4). And he also opened up the Temple, commanded the Levites to clean it up (and themselves), and repair it, and to begin the daily sacrifices, as the Law commanded (back then) (2 Chron 29:3-5). Yet, Hezekiah also caused the southern kingdom of Judah to keep the Passover, which had not been done in a *long* time (thanks to the wickedness of previous kings). He even invited those *left* in the *northern kingdom* of Israel (who had not *yet* been taken captive by the Assryians) to come and observe Passover with them (2 Chron 30:1-6).

So, in order to make such good progress (in cleaning things up in the southern kingdom of Judah), Hezekiah *must* have had people who were 'on the same page' as him in his government. For, it is *very* difficult to serve the Lord (YHVH) when you have someone who isn't of the same faith as you. That's why Paul urged the Christians in Corinth to…

14 ***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers****: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
16 And ***what agreement hath the temple of God with idols****? for* ***ye are the temple of the living God****; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; ***and I will receive you****,*
18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
2 Cor 6:14-18

So, in our own life we too *should* seek out 'companions' (a spouse, friends and associates) who are like minded (earnest Christians). For, being able to live our life according to God's Word is *very* difficult when we're *constantly* provoked to sin against Him by our unbelieving associates, in one way or another. As we say today, 'birds of a feather, flock together' [**Unequally Yoked** https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/900]. So, just as Hezekiah did, so too should we do. Spending our free time (when not at work) with people who are *like minded* (i.e. have the mind of Christ *because* they too study God's Word *and* strive to obey it) is what will help us to grow in faith *and also*, be able to share the truth (Gods' Word) with others. Now, this does *not* mean we cannot *ever* be around 'unbelievers'. In fact, it would be *impossible* to avoid them - for we *have* to be around them at work, when we go shopping and, at other places we visit - and most of us likely have family members who are unbelievers too. And truly, it is *good* for us to be around unbelievers, at least some of the time, for that's how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is usually shared! Yet we should *always remember* to do what Jesus said in those times, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (Matt 5:16).

However, we should *always* be careful not to 'yoke' ourselves to (*spiritually* join) them. And we also shouldn't let the time we must spend around unbelievers cause us to conform *to the world* (1 John 2:15-17). As Paul said, *be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind* [by studying God's Word daily]*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God* (Rom 12:2). As Paul also warned us, we should have *no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them* (Eph 5:11). So, we should be wise about who we marry, where we work and where we spend our 'free time' (while not at work). And, most importantly, we should also be very careful where we go to Church at! For many Churches do *not* do a very good job at actually *teaching* God's Word; rather they teach 'traditions of man' that make *void* God's Word (Mth 15, Mk 7). And many Christians who go to

those kinds of churches *enjoy* 'playing Church' more than they do actually being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. They simply don't understand that 'playing Church' is *not* true Christianity [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212]. And lastly (but not least), it's also vital for us to make sure that we 'yoke' ourselves (each day) to God's Word – through sincere, consistent, diligent, and honest studying of His Word. As Jesus told us, that's the *only* way we'll ever find *true* 'rest' (spiritually) in this wicked world (Matt 11:28-30). You can learn more in the study on **The Yoke** [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/859]. So, Hezekiah's point (here in Psalm 119:63) isn't just a good point he's making to God (when asking for His help), it's also a *really* good lesson for us today.

Psalm 119
64 The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

And now Hezekiah closes this 8th section (Cheth) with a *beautiful* prayer request. And he makes his request in an unusual way. For he points out that the earth is 'full of' (#4390) His (the Lord, YHVH, #3068) 'mercy' (kindness, #2617) and *then* asks for God to teach him His statutes. So, the implication he's making is that, *because of* the fact that God's mercy (kindness) is *so very abundant* (all over the world), Hezekiah implores the Lord (YHVH) to *continue* to show him 'mercy' and teach him. Said another way, Hezekiah knew God's mercy endures forever, *and* is *incredibly* abundant around the world (to those who love and fear Him), so he implores the Lord for *more of* that great 'mercy' (kindness to be given to him). Now, this word '**teach**' is a word we've seen before in this Psalm 119 (verses 7, 12, and 27). 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, Hezekiah is simply asking for God to ***continue*** **to 'point him'** (even chastening with the 'rod of correction, if need be, Prov 13:24, 23:13-14) **in the *right* direction**, i.e. towards His statutes. And His '**statutes**' are His ***decrees*** or ***ordinances*** (#2706*) – and, they *specifically* refer to the Laws that God (YHVH) gave Israel, which pertained to how the government should be administered. So, they were *general rules of conduct* for the government to bring prosperity, peace and good order to the nation.

So, while in the prior verse (63) Hezekiah pointed out that he was careful to associate with those who fear the Lord (YHVH), i.e. those who keep His Laws… he's now asking for God to *continue* to help him learn how to keep (obey and guard) His righteous Laws, so his nation can *continue* to prosper… and *not* fall into the hands of the Assryians! And, while we are probably not a 'king' - nor even in the government of our nation - this is *still* a good prayer request for us to implore to the Lord (YHVH). For the most *wonderful* mercy (kindness) God *can* give us is helping us truly *understand* His Word! After all, it is *by mercy and truth* (from God) that our *iniquity is purged* (cleaned) (Prov 16:6). So, we cannot receive His blessings if we don't learn

how to obey His Word. But, if we *don't understand* His Word (or how to apply it to our life) then we can't obey it! So, this indeed is a very good prayer for us to pray also. And really, no matter how old we get, we should continue to ask God (YHVH) to help us understand His Word. For, no matter how many years we've been studying it, we'll never understand it all. Moreover, we also have tendency to forget (at least some of) what we've learned. That's why it's good to go 'back to the basics' [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1070] every now and then. For, not only does that refresh our memory but, many times we'll understand the basics *much better* than the first (or second, etc.) time we studied them. And, of a truth, our Heavenly Father will be gracious (kind) to help us understand His Word better, so long as we're seeking Him *wholeheartedly*. For truth is what gives us *spiritual* **life** (Heb 4:12; John 6:63)… which is *why* this Psalm 119 teaches us how we are 'quickened' (revived *spiritually*) by God's Written Word! So, we shouldn't get tired of studying God's Word, ever! For truly, the Bible is 'pregnant' because it just continues to 'bring forth' truth, knowledge and wisdom… to those who are *earnestly* seeking it…

1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
4 ***If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures****;*
5 ***Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God****.*
6 ***For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.***
7 ***He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous****: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*
8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, ***and preserveth the way of his saints****.*
9 ***Then*** *shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*
10 ***When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul****;*
11 ***Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee****:*
12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;
13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
Prov 2:1-13

We'll pick this up in section 9 (teth)…

AMEN.