Part 2 – Peace and War

Psalm 120
3 What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?

So, while in the prior verse (2) Hezekiah spoke about the 'lying lips' and 'deceitful tongues' of the Assyrian delegates, he now begins to 'speak' ***to them*** in a *symbolic* way. For, this is probably not what he *literally* told them but, *what he's thinking in his own mind*. The word '**given**' here simply means ***to give*** and is used with greatest latitude of application, i.e. ***put, make***, etc. (#5414). And then the word '**done**' means ***to add*** or ***augment*** (#3254); and the *Companion Bible* notes this could even be rendered as '*heaped upon*' or '*added to*'. And then the word '**false**' here is the same word that was rendered as 'deceitful' in the prior verse 2. Therefore, it also means ***remissness*** or ***treachery*** (#7423). So, Hezekiah is really 'asking' these deceitful (and arrogant) liars (the Assyrian delegate) what they think their lying (deceitful) tongue *will profit them*. And, he's actually going to give the answer in the next verse. But first, we should remember that there is *nothing new* in our day and age (Ecc 1:9). Just as the Assyrian delegates used lies, and deceit, to try and weaken Hezekiah's (and his army's) faith in the *true* God (YHVH), so too does this happen today! Not only from those who are 'unbelievers' (of which there are many) but also from people who claim to be Christians, or even Christian 'ministers'. For even many 'self-professed' Christians outright claim they *doubt* God's Word; some even doubt Jesus' virgin birth!

Further, others claim 'science' proves that God's Word is not true. While 'science' may go against the 'traditions of man', *true* science does <u>not at all</u> go against God's Word. For example: the traditions of man claim this earth is only six thousand years old. Yet, God's Word actually doesn't tell us how old it really is; it only says this *earth age* is six thousand years old! You can learn more about this in the study on **3 World Ages** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/488] and the study on **The World That Then Was** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/496]. And another example can be seen in the recently disclosed "UFO files" that are being released from the US government. Some pastors claim the government told them to 'prepare' their Churches for this news because it 'may' cause them to doubt their faith in God's Word. And that's really quite silly because God's Word tells us that there are both good, and bad (fallen), 'angels' who have come to this *earth for thousands of years*! Not only did Satan (also called the serpent, Rev 12:9, 20:2) come to the earth to deceive Eve (Gen 3) but, *so too* did *other* fallen angels come to the earth, as is recorded in Gen 6. Further, we're also told that the Lord (YHVH) came to earth *many* times too. He appeared to Job (Job 38:1), Abraham (Gen 12:7, Gen 17:1, Gen 18:1-2), Isaac (Gen 26:1-2) and Jacob too (Gen 35:7-9). And, of course, the Lord (YHVH) also appeared to Moses in the bush that burned with fire, but wasn't consumed (Ex 3:2). Yet, He also came down to speak with the children of Israel (literally) after He freed them from Egyptian bondage (Ex 19-20).

If you'd like to understand more about *how* our Heavenly Father came to earth, check out the studies **Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485] and **Spiritual and Material Dimensions** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263]. Further yet, in the first chapter of Ezekiel, we're even given a *detailed* description of the transportation method that our Heavenly Father uses when He comes to the earth! But, as the two part studies on **You Will See Clouds and Wheels** [Part 1, https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392 and Part 2 https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393] warns us, Satan (and his fallen angels) also use these mighty flying vehicles to ride in too! And further to that, the Bible also tells us that Jesus Christ (and His Holy angels) will return (at His Second Advent) *in these* awesome flying vehicles (as the 'wheels' studies above document)! But further still, the Bible also warns us that BEFORE Jesus Christ returns, Satan and (his fallen angels) will be kicked out of heaven *to earth*! And how will they get here? Yes, by some pretty amazing flying vehicles of their own. And when they are here, they'll be waging the *most intense* phycological warfare that the word *has ever seen*… it'll be *way worse* than what the Assyrians did to Hezekiah and his army! And if we listen to 'lying lips' now (especially the ones from the pulpits), we will *be deceived* into thinking that Satan *is* God (the 'Christ' - our 'Savior') … because that is *exactly* what he's going to be claiming to be (2 Thess 2, Rev 12)! So, it's ever so critical that we learn to discern lying and deceitful lips too, just as Hezekiah (and those guarding the walls of Jerusalem) did. And, what will come of those liars? What will their lies profit them? You see, the same question Hezekiah posed (in verse 3) can also be symbolically 'asked' to Satan, his fallen angels and *all* of mankind who lies about God's Word. Thankfully, Hezekiah goes on to give us the answer…

Psalm 120
4 Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

So, let's remember, this is what those people with lying lips, and deceitful tongues, will get *in response* to their lies and treachery (deceit). The word '**sharp**' here means ***to point***, ***to pierce*** or even (figuratively) ***to inculcate*** (i.e. teach) (#8150). And the word '**arrows**' means ***a piercer***, i.e. ***an arrow*** or even ***the shaft of a spear***; and, by implication, it can also mean ***a wound*** or (figuratively, speaking of God) it can also mean ***a thunder-bolt*** (#2671). And then the word '**mighty**' here means ***powerful*** or (by implication) a ***warrior*** and even a ***tyrant*** (#1368). The *Companion Bible* notes render this as ***the Mighty One***, i.e. God Himself (YHVH). And then the word '**coals**' means ***an ember*** and comes from an unused root that means ***to glow*** or ***kindle*** (#1513). And lastly, the word '**juniper**' actually means ***the Spanish broom***, *from its pole-like stems* (#7574). But it's likely rendered as 'juniper' here because the juniper tree limbs burn *exceedingly* hot.

So, Hezekiah is 'warning' the liars, and deceivers, that – in response to their wicked lies and deceit – they have *very* sharp arrows, and *very hot* (even burning) coals coming their way! And these terms are used elsewhere in the Psalms. For example, in Psalms 18, David wrote about a

time (or perhaps *more than one* time) when the Lord (YHVH) *literally* helped him (and the Israelite army) fight their battles (ex: 2 Sam 5:23-25). And David not only pointed out that the Lord (YHVH) ***rode upon a cherub***, ***and did fly****: yea, he* ***did fly upon the wings of the wind*** (Ps 18:10) but that *He thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones* ***and coals of fire****. Yea,* ***he sent out his arrows****, and scattered them; and* ***he shot out lightnings****, and discomfited them*" (Ps 18:13-14). So, our Heavenly Father can *not only* fly in the sky, via an amazing mighty vehicle (and His army of holy angels fly with Him too), but He can also fight from that vehicle too! And He uses lighting to do so, just as mankind used arrows for thousands of years. And in another Psalm of David, we're also told the Lord (YHVH) "*Cast forth* ***lightning****, and scatter them:* ***shoot out thine arrows****, and destroy them*" (Ps 144:6) when speaking of how God saved him, by helping him fight in war. It's no wonder David was so successful in all his warfare! If you'd like to learn more about how our Heavenly Father has (and will) fight here on earth, check out part Psalms 18 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/156], part 4, which explains of our Heavenly Father's 'weapons of war'. Moreover, in Psalm 11, David posed the question, asking: what can we (mankind) do when the 'foundations' of a government have been destroyed, i.e. what can we do when the government becomes corrupted. David was likely speaking about the insurrection of his son Absalom. And so, his question, and response, is very much like Hezekiah's in this Psalm 120. And what did David say to this question?

3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?
4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.
5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence ***his soul hateth****.*
6 ***Upon the wicked*** *he* ***shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest****: this shall be the portion of their cup.*
Ps 11:3-6

David's point here is that, when earthly governments become utterly corrupted, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is *still* on His throne, in heaven, and *He sees it*. Therefore, He *will* 'step in' and ***execute*** *righteous* judgment when the earthly governments won't! As Ps 75:7-8 also says, "*But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them*". So then, 'what shall be given' to those 'false tongues'? The Mighty One (YHVH) **will** fight ***against them*** with His holy (angelic) army! And, of course, there are many places that speak of how Jesus Christ, when He returns at His Second Advent, will do just that! As Isa 42:13 tells us, "*The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies*". And other Scriptures give the same warning (Amos 1:2; Joel 3:16; Isa 31:4; Jer 21:6, etc.) while Zech 14:3 warns that "*Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle*". And, even in the New Testament

we're warned of this. Not only does Rev 14:17-20, 16 and 19:11-21 describe how Jesus will fight against His enemies but, Jude 14-15 bluntly tells us that, "*the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, **To execute judgment upon all**, and to convince all **that are ungodly** among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, **and of all their hard speeches** which ungodly sinners **have spoken against him***". So yes, those 'lying and deceitful tongues' will indeed be met with '*sharp arrows of the Mighty (One)* and with *coals of juniper*'!

And this is why Jesus told us, when speaking of His return, that "***Immediately after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**. And **he shall send his angels** with a great sound of a trumpet, and **they shall gather together his elect from the four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other*". So, after the 'great tribulation' of the 'antichrist' (Mth 24:21) - i.e. when Satan is literally on earth, pretending to be God and controlling the entire world [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345] – Jesus Christ **will** return 'in the clouds' with His holy angels (i.e. also in mighty flying vehicles, that are often cloaked in clouds) and gather His 'elect', which are simply those Christians who *remain faithful* to Him, i.e. those who do *not* apostatize by worshipping Satan [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499]. And that's why, in Luke 21:28, we're told that, "*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*". **Why look 'up'?** Because that's where Jesus, and His holy angels, will be coming from! They'll be returning in the 'sky' via some awesome flying vehicles!

So, while Jesus Christ returns to *fight with His enemies* (Satan, the fallen angels, and *all those on earth* who worshipped Satan), those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ ***have nothing to fear***. They will be gathered (by Jesus' holy angels, via the flying vehicles) and *safely* be brought to Jerusalem, where Jesus will be (Isa 30:19, 31:4-9; Jer 23:3-6, 29:14, 31:7-11; Mic 4:6-7; Matt 3:12; Isa 11:11-12; Ezek 37:21-22, etc.), as the study **Point A To Point B** so clearly explains [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489]. So, this means 'the Church' is ***not*** going to be 'raptured' *out of earth* to heaven [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457] but rather, they'll remain on earth *during* the 'great tribulation' *to witness against* Satan, his fallen angels, and the wicked people on earth (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19, Rev 11:3-6) so they can be warned that that Satan is not the true Christ; *and* that the true Jesus *is soon coming*! But, to those who **do** worship Satan (i.e. Jesus' enemies, Mth 7: 21-23) Jesus Christ **will be fighting against them** (along with Satan and his fallen angels) – that's what the 'vials' of Rev 16 warn of. And further, Jesus' holy angels will also *gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, **and** them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth* (Matt 13:40-42). And the 'furnace of fire' here is simply a figure of speech for the

spiritual torment they'll be in during the Millennium, for they will be put in prisons and not allowed freedom to do evil anymore, as Isa 24:22 (and Rev 20:1-3) so clearly explains.

So, in the future, as back in Hezekiah's day, the 'false tongues' will be 'rewarded' with God's mighty 'weapons of war'. As it is written, the Lord (YHVH) killed off 165,000 of the Assyrian's army *in just one night* (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22)! And how do you suppose He did this? Yes, of course, it was with His "*Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper*"! In other words, the Lord (YHVH) went to the Assyrian army at night (in His flying vehicle, with His angelic army) and killed off most of the Assyrian army *with their high tech* 'arrows' and 'coals'! And, as it was then, so shall it be again, for *there is no new thing under the sun* (Eccl 1:9). Jesus Christ will return *and* execute vengeance upon His enemies, while saving, and rewarding, those who remain faithful to Him. And eventually, when the Millennium is over, all incorrigible rebels (including Satan and the fallen angels) will be cast into the 'lake of fire' (Rev 20:10-15), which means they'll be *totally blotted out of existence*… just as the smoke from the fat of lambs *dissipates into nothing* (Ps 37:20).

Psalm 120
5 Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!

Now, the word '**woe**' here means ***a lamentation*** (#190, #188). And the word '**sojourn**' means to ***turn aside from the road*** (for a lodging or any other purpose), i.e. ***sojourn*** (as a guest); however, it can also mean also ***to shrink*** or ***fear*** (as in a strange place) as well as ***to gather for hostility*** (as afraid) (#1481). And the word '**dwell**' means to ***reside*** or ***permanently stay*** (literally or figuratively) (#7931). So, these two words (sojourn and dwell) mean *nearly* the same thing. And while the word '**Mesech**' does mean ***Meshek*** (who was a son of Japheth, and also refers *to the people descended from him*, #4902) and the word '**Kedar**' does mean ***Kedar*** (a son of Ishmael, and his descendants, #6938), the *Companion Bible* points out that **these two tribes were often used to refer to cruel, and merciless peoples**, often like we use the term 'barbarian' (i.e. Vandals, Goths, Philistines, etc.). Thus, Hezekiah is *not really* speaking about the people of Mesech, or Kedar. Rather, he's *using their names* to explain how cruel, and merciless, *the Assryians were*. And remember, they (the Assyrians) were camped out (in tents) *close* to Jerusalem, where Hezekiah lived. So, Hezekiah is simply lamenting about living so close to those who are hostile to him, i.e. the Assyrian army. And he's lamenting because they *were* cruel, and merciless people!

Psalm 120
6 My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.

The word '**soul**' here means ***a breathing creature*** (#5315). So, he's simply referring to *himself*, i.e. both his inner and outer (flesh) man. He could have just as well used the word "I". And the

word '**long**' here actually means ***abundant***, *in quantity, size, age, number, rank* and *quality* (#7227). So, he's saying that, *for a long time* he's '**dwelt**' (***reside*** or ***stay***, #7931) with those who '**hateth**' (***hate, personally***, #8130) peace. And the word '**peace**' here is likely a Hebrew word you are familiar with: ***shalowm*** or ***shalom*** (#7965) and means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; and (abstractly) can also mean ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace***.

So, Hezekiah says that he's had to put up with (dwelt with, or near) those who hate peace for far too long! And he likely says this because, when he took over the throne (from his wicked father, Ahaz), the southern kingdom of Judah was *already under tribute* to the Assryians. And that was *thanks to* his wicked father, Ahaz, who asked the Assyrians to *help him* from other invading nations (*instead of* asking the Lord, YHVH, for help) … which is *what* caused the southern kingdom to become tributaries to the Assryians (2 Kings 16:7-20; 2 Chron 28:16-27). But, when Hezekiah took over, he *stopped* paying tribute to the Assyrians (2 Kings 18:7) and *that's* what caused them to (eventually) invade the southern kingdom of Judah, after they'd taken the northern tribes of Israel. So, knowing this history helps us to see *why* Hezekiah says that he had "*long dwelt with him that hateth peace*". For, since the time he took over the throne, he had to deal with this cruel, and merciless nation, who *didn't care* about their tribute nations *at all*. They were *not* interested in peace but rather, earthly riches! So again, we can see *why* this is a Psalm of 'Distress'…

Psalm 120
7 I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.

So now, after speaking about how he's had to put up with those Assryians who hated peace, Hezekiah now points out that he *really didn't* want to fight against them. Even though he had stopped paying tribute (2 Kings 18:7), he didn't do it as an 'act of war' but rather, as an act of *faith in* the Lord (YHVH). The word '**peace**' here is (again) the Hebrew word ***shalowm,*** or ***shalom*** (#7965), and means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; and (abstractly) can also mean ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace***. And the '**speak**' here means ***to arrange*** but, it can also be used figuratively ***of words***, i.e. ***to speak*** (#1696). And then the word '**war**' simply means ***a battle*** (i.e. the engagement) and (generally) ***for war*** (i.e. warfare) (#4421). The *Moffett Bible* renders this verse as "*However peaceably I talk, they are for war*". And this is, most certainly, a reference to how Hezekiah tried to 'make peace' with the Assryians after he realized they were going to make war with Jerusalem. For, after they conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, they kept on going down to the southern kingdom of Judah! And, after they took all the other fortified cities in Judah, *they then headed for Jerusalem*. And that's when Hezekiah sent a delegate to Lachish (the last fortified city before Jerusalem) to tell the Assyrian King, "*I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear*" (2 Kings 18:14). And Hezekiah even gave them the tribute money… even though he (sadly) had to take silver from the Temple of God to do so. Yet, that still didn't stop the Assyrian army from coming against them!

For, after that (after Hezekiah paid the tribute money the Assyrian king demanded from him), the Assyrian king then sent his army to Jerusalem, and sent his delegates to demand Jerusalem surrender. So again, this is *why* Hezekiah wrote that, no matter how peaceably he spoke to them, they were 'for war' because they were still 'dead set' on taking Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:13-20).

And this goes to show that trying to appease 'bullies' (or wicked people) doesn't work! The only thing that works is *standing up to them*. Yet, when we're not strong enough to defend ourselves (as Jerusalem was) we've got to have help doing so! Therefore, must make sure that we are pleasing to our Heavenly Father (i.e. are earnestly trying to obey Him) so we can ask Him for help! For truly, some situations are impossible for us to get out of *without* help from God Almighty (YHVH). As Jesus so rightly said, "*The things which are impossible with men **are possible with God***" (Luke 18:27)! And, thankfully, Hezekiah finally realized this. Which is why he wrote the very long, yet ever so beautiful, Psalm 119! And, within that Psalm we see how Hezekiah *very clearly* laid out (made his case) to the Lord (YHVH) *how much* he loved Him, His Word and His Laws. **And** that he was *earnestly* trying *to obey them*, *from the heart*. **And** *that* was the basis he used to ask for God's help with the 'Assyrian threat'. And we know the Lord (YHVH) did hear his prayer(s) *and* did help them. For, *in just one night*, the Lord (YHVH) killed off 165,000 of the Assyrian's army! And this caused the Assyrians to flee from Jersualem, back to Assyria (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22). So, of a truth, when we are weak, the *only* way we can be strong is *when* our Heavenly Father helps us (2 Cor 12:7-10; Phil 14:13)! And this is *why* it's better to trust *in Him* than in mankind, rulers of the earth (Ps 118:8-9), riches (Ps 62:10) or even weapons of war (Ps 20:7)!

Further, we should also be aware that, there are times when people do speak 'peaceably' to us but, they *actually* have 'war' in their heart (Ps 5:9). As Prov 29:5 says, "*A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet*". And David found this out the hard way when his own son led an insurrection against him; and, even his *most trusted advisor* betrayed him (2 Sam 12:12, 31; Ps 55:21)! And yet, this kind of deception (speaking peaceably but, having *evil motives* in their heart) can *also* come from the religious community (Prov 2:16). As Paul warned us, false apostles (teachers, preachers, etc.) present (disguise) themselves as the apostles of Christ. And, even Satan himself presents (disguises) himself as an 'angel of light' *and* his ministers claim to be righteous too (2 Cor 11:13-15). That's why the *very first* thing Jesus warned us about (when His apostles asked what would be the 'signs' of His Second Advent) was *deception* (Matt 24:4-5; Mark 13:5-6; Luke 21:8). And that's why the book of Daniel warns us that Satan himself will use flatteries, *and* promises of peace, to gain control of the entire world (Dan 8:25, 11:21, 32).

So, while Hezekiah was earnestly desiring (and speaking about, and for) peace, the Assyrians were not 'having any of it'. Yet, in our day, the *true* threat we face is from those who do speak of 'peace'! For the 'peace' that is coming *before* the true 'Prince of Peace' (Jesus Christ, Isa 9:6) returns, is a *false* peace. It's a peace that will *only* come to those who (literally) *sell their own*

soul to the Devil (Satan) himself, as Rev 13 explains so well. So, while we too (like Hezekiah) should want, and work for, true peace… we *cannot* work for the ***false*** peace that Satan promises when he (and his fallen angels) come to the earth! For, they *will* lie out their 'rear ends' to promise a *false* sense of 'world peace' yet, all they will end up giving people is *fiery judgment from the **true** Jesus Christ* when He returns! After all, Jesus told us that He came not to send peace on earth but a sword (Matt 10:34). And that simply means that He came to send (give us) the truth (John 18:37) - which truly *does* divide people. Meanwhile, **Satan's lies are devised to unite the world in a *false* peace because it's a peace *without* the true 'Prince of Peace'** (Isa 9:6). And that *false* peace (the lies) is what we, on behalf of Jesus Christ, are supposed to *fight against* with the *only* spiritual offensive weapon we have, i.e. *the Word of God* (Eph 6:17)! And, as we do that (both now, and during the 'great tribulation', Mth 24:21), we *will* receive *true* (i.e. spiritual) peace we need to make it through that 'great tribulation' (John 14:27) …

*These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me** ye might **have peace**. In the world **ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer* [courage]*; **I have overcome the world.***
John 17:1

*57 But thanks be to God, **which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.*
*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that **your labour is not in vain in the Lord**.*
1 Cor 15:57-58

AMEN.