

Psalm Chapter 129 - Review

In chapter 129, part 1, we learned how the Psalmist (Hezekiah) had experienced many afflictions (that came from being a tribute nation to the heathen Assyrians) from the time he was very young. And that continued into his own reign, albeit only *for a little while*, because he stopped paying tribute to them. Yet years later, the Assyrians *came back*, threatening to besiege Jerusalem if he didn't surrender the city. And, Hezekiah also pointed out that he wasn't the *only* 'one' who had afflictions from his 'youth'. Israel (as a nation) *also* had afflictions from their 'youth', which means from their younger years as a nation (when they were in bondage to the Egyptians). However, *even though* he had afflictions from his youth (as did Israel), Hezekiah's oppressors *never* prevailed against him *because* the Lord (YHWH) was 'on his side'! And, the Lord (YHWH) was on his side *because* (importantly) Hezekiah *was on* the Lord's (YHWH's) 'side'! And, as Psalm 124 pointed out, if God (YHWH) was not for Israel, they would have been destroyed as a nation. Yet, this is as true for us today (regardless of what race we are, Gal 3) as it was back then for Israel and Hezekiah... that is, *so long as we remain* 'on the Lord's side' by *earnestly* seeking, loving and obeying Him!

And then we learned more details about Hezekiah's (and Israel's) hardships by an analogy. So, just as a plow makes long cuts in a field, with only tiny breaks in between each path of destruction, so too was the history of Hezekiah (and Israel's) persecutions *nearly* constant, with only short breaks between the afflictions (Ex 1:8-14; 17:8; Judges 2:16-19; Isa 36:1; 2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 32, 36:17-21, etc.). But, what's also interesting about this analogy is that, our Lord, and Savior (Jesus Christ) also experienced similar afflictions from His enemies during His life... as did the apostles *and many other* of His faithful followers since them (to this very day). Yet, *because* the Lord (YHWH) is righteous to punish the wicked, and reward the righteous (Ps 37; 145:18-20, etc.), Hezekiah's (and Israel's) afflictions *didn't* prevail against (overcome) him. Nor did they overcome Israel, or Jesus, or the apostles nor anyone (to this very day) who faithfully serves our Heavenly Father (YHWH) *and* the Savior He sent us (Jesus Christ). Thus, the Lord (YHWH) *will* free those who are enslaved (in due time), be it physically or spiritually (Deut 4:29-31, John 8:31-32, etc.). That's actually *why* Jesus Christ died for us, i.e. *to free us from* Satan's *spiritual* deception of lies (Heb 2:14; Rom 8:2). And therefore, it is the 'day of vengeance' (when Jesus returns to the earth to pour out God's mighty 'cup of wrath) that comforts those who *earnestly* seek, and obey, the Lord, YHWH (Isa 61:2-3). For, God's wrath is not for those who love Him (Rom 5:8-10; 1 Thess 1:10; 1 Thess 5:6-9) but, for those who have *despised* His efforts to save them from spiritual (eternal) death (Rev 3:5, 20:10-15; Mal 4:1; Ezek 2:18-19; Ps 37:20; 2 Pt 3). For, *only* those who repent, and serve God/Jesus, will have their sins blotted out so they don't have to be *blotted out of existence* (Ex 32:33; Ps 51:1, 9; Jer 18:23; Acts 3:19; Isa 44:22; Col 2:14; Eph 2:15).

So again, we see just *how* prophetic these Psalms really are. For while Hezekiah spoke of his (and Israel's) many afflictions, and pointed out how they didn't prevail over him (nor Israel) – because of God's 'saving grace' (i.e. when they repented and turned back to Him earnestly) – it also looks forward to *our* day and age. Therefore, *even during* the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21), when Satan (and his fallen angels) come to *spiritually* 'afflict' the world, with lies and *great* deceptions (Matt 24:9), the afflictions won't prevail against us either. That is, *so long as we remain faithful* to the *true* God (YHVH), and the *true* Jesus Christ! As David so well wrote, "*And they that know thy name **will put their trust in thee**: for thou, LORD, **hast not forsaken them that seek thee***" (Ps 9:10). So, as long as we *don't* forsake the Lord (YHVH), nor deny Jesus Christ, then our Heavenly Father (nor Jesus) *won't* deny us when Jesus Christ returns to take over the world (Matt 10:32-33) and install His righteous government... which we will get to be a part of IF we have served Him *faithfully*.

In part 2 we learned how Hezekiah asked the Lord (YHVH) to cause all those who hated 'Zion' (i.e. the nation of Israel and even, specifically, those who lived in Jerusalem) to be 'confounded and turned back' (i.e. to retreat in shame). And, as usual, he used several analogies to explain *how* he hoped this would happen. That's why he asked the Lord (YHVH) to cause those who hated 'Zion' (the Assyrians) to wither (be ashamed, confused, disappointed) as the grass (or weeds) on a rooftop did (because they didn't have deep roots). And, that's actually the *same* analogy God used in response to Hezekiah's prayer, when promising He would save Jerusalem (i.e. Zion) from the Assyrians. Therefore, the Lord (YHVH) *did* answer Hezekiah's prayer request; for He sent His 'Angel' to kill off 165,000 of the Assyrian's army, *in just one night*, causing them to flee from Jerusalem - back to Assyria - in *great* shame, humiliation and fear (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22).

And then, another analogy Hezekiah used was: just as those who go to harvest grass, or grain, come back *empty handed* when the harvest withers (as the grass on the housetop in vs 6) and, just as one who binds sheaves (puts them together in a bundle) has *nothing* to bundle because the harvest is so poor... so too did Hezekiah ask the Lord (YHVH) to make the Assyrians *fruitless* (unsuccessful and thus, disappointed and ashamed) in their attempts to conquer Jerusalem (i.e. Zion). And, indeed, they *did* flee Jerusalem *empty handed*. In fact, they also left *all* of the southern kingdom of Judah *empty handed* after God killed off most of their army. So, they *truly did retreat in shame and empty handed!* And we also learned that this is (yet again) an example for us living today. For David also used a similar analogy when warning us not to get frothingly angry about those who do evil. As it is written, "*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb*" (Ps 37:1-2). So, just as the grass (or any green vegetation) withers after its cut, so too will the evil doers, and workers of iniquity, be 'cut down' when Jesus Christ returns to depose the wicked and install His righteous government. And we need to keep this in mind because, during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21), it will seem like the wicked ones

(Satan, his fallen angels, and others who follow them) are successful. But, ‘*their day is coming*’, just as it was for the Assyrians! As John the Baptist warned the hard- hearted (and hypocritical) Pharisees, and Sadducees, the Messiah (Jesus Christ) **will** “*thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*” (Mth 3:12). The ‘chaff’ is the *useless* part of the grain that is *not fit for anything but burning*... *that’s* how God (YHWH) feels about the wicked ones who *refuse* to repent! But, *contrarily*, those who ‘sow’ the precious seeds of truth (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) **will** ‘reap in joy’ an abundant harvest (Ps 126:5-6)!

And then Hezekiah finished his song by asking that *even a hint* of divine approval be denied those who afflicted him (i.e. the Assyrians); for even a common public greeting (such as in verse 8 and Ruth 2:4) would be ‘too good’ for those who afflicted him (and Israel). And this was not an inappropriate request. As the apostle John tells us, “*If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine [the Gospel of Christ, **un**-perverted], receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (2 John 10-11). So, just as it was inappropriate for anyone of Israel to even *casually* ask that the Lord (YHWH) bless Israel’s enemies (via a greeting such as in this verse 8), so too is it quite inappropriate (even bad) for a Christian to receive someone, who *hates* Jesus Christ, into their house (*especially* to fellowship with) or even to bid him/her ‘God speed’ - which means to ask that God *ble*ss him or her. For, in doing so, we actually become a *partaker* of their **evil** deeds... and that means we also become a partaker of their *judgments* from God! So, we too should be very careful not to ‘bless’ (in any way) those *who hate God (and Jesus Christ)* regardless of their race (or who they claim to be, Rev 2:9, 3:9). So, yet *again* we see the prophetic side of these precious Psalms. For, just as Hezekiah asked that all those who hate Zion (the nation of Israel) would be fruitless, shamed and disappointed (which *did* happen), so too will all those who hate Jesus Christ, *and* His faithful servants, be fruitless, shamed and disappointed as well *when* the *true* Jesus Christ returns...*

34 *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**.*
35 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life **for my sake and the gospel's**, the same shall save it.*
36 *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*
37 *Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*
38 *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; **of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed**, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

Mark 8:34-38

28 *And now, little children, **abide in him** [John 15]; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

29 *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

1 John 2:28-29 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1273>; <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992>]

AMEN.