Part 4 – The God of Heaven and Earth

In chapter part 3 we learned more of the 'great wonders' Yehovah has done, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. Therefore, the next 'great wonder' the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) wrote about was how the Lord (YHVH) smote the (male) firstborn Egyptians during the *Tenth* Plague (Ex 12:29). And, one of the most amazing feats about this plague was the Lord's (YHVH) ability to *distinguish* between the firstborn of the *cattle*! For, not only the firstborn (male) of all Egyptians was killed (regardless of their status), but *also* the firstborn of the cattle… and this all happened *in one night*! And so, not surprisingly, this was the final 'straw' that caused the Egyptians to free Israel. However, another amazing part of this miracle was that *none* of Israel's firstborn male children, *nor* cattle, were smitten! And that's because *all* of Israel had the '*blood of the lamb*' upon their doorposts, just as Moses (on behalf of the Lord, YHVH) commanded them (Ex 12:28). Of course, this is *incredibly* significant for how we *must* have the *spiritual* 'blood' of the 'Lamb', Jesus Christ (which is *the truth*, i.e. the Holy Spirit of God *within us*, John 6:63), upon the 'doorposts' of our *heart and mind* IF we want the 'death angel' (Satan and his deception) to pass *over us*. So, the '*blood of the Lamb*' will also protect us from *spiritual* deception, which is actually what causes our spiritual death (at the end of the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15). So, if we want to avoid *spiritual* death, we *must* have the truth (God's Word and Holy Spirit) in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts). So, this 'great wonder' also has an important *spiritual* lesson for us as well.

And then we learned *how* the Lord (YHVH) brought Israel out of Egypt was yet *another* one 'great wonder' Yehovah did (which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'). And it *was* a 'great wonder' *because* He led Israel via a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:21-22). And that meant Israel could travel by day, or by night! Further, the cloud (by day) not only led them, but also *protected* them from the hot sun. And the pillar of fire not only led them, and protected them from any dangerous animals and people, it also helped them to stay warm during the cool nights in the wilderness (desert). And that's also why the Psalmist pointed out that, the Lord's (YHVH) delivering Israel from Egypt was done with a '*strong hand*' and a '*stretched out arm*'. And this means it took an *incredible* amount of power (force) to be able to perform the plages, let alone at the *exact* time (and way) He promised to do so (ex: Ex 8:9-13). And again, this proves that Yehovah truly is the *Supreme* God, who is *far greater*, and *above all* others, called 'god'. For only the Lord (YHVH) Himself – who is our Creator – could have done the things He did to free the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

And then we learned how the Lord's (YHVH) dividing the Red Sea, allowing Israel to cross over *on dry land*, and then causing the waves to come *crashing down on* the Egyptian army (which killed them *all*) was yet *another* 'great wonder' Yehovah did, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. And these three mighty miracles were *so* impressive to Israel, that, this was one of the few times Israel actually believed in the Lord (YHVH) (Ex 14:31). And

this is why they later sang a beautiful song to praise Him for the mighty deliverance (Ex 15:11-12). If only their faith had continued! But, while it did not, it's still a good example of how we *must remember* the many 'great wonders' the Lord (YHVH) has done in the past - so that *our* faith *does not shake* during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21) that is soon to come. However, the Psalmist is still not done speaking of the 'great wonders' the Lord (YHVH) has done…

Psalm 136
17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:
20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:

So, *more* of the 'great wonders' Yehovah did (which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god') is that He '**smote**' (which means ***to strike***, #5221) '**great**' (which means ***great** in any sense*, #1419) kings - even kings that were '**famous**' (***powerful***, #117) did He ***smite with deadly intent*** ('**slew**', #2026). So, aside from the 'Egypt example', there were *many other* foreign nations that the Lord (YHVH) conquered - nations that were greater in size, *and* power, than Israel. As we learned when studying the last chapter (Ps 135:10-11), even when Israel *first* came out of Egypt, they were *viciously* attacked (likely to get their fresh water source) *from 'behind'* (where the children and old people were), by the Amalekites (Ex 17). And years later "king Arad the Canaanite" fought (also *unprovokedly*) against Israel, when they were migrating through the wilderness (Num 21:1-3). And, in both cases, the Lord (YHVH) gave Israel the victory because '*His mercy endureth forever*"! In other words, despite the fact Israel had been rebellious (many times) after they were freed from Egypt, the Lord (YHVH) *still* gave them the victory over the heathen nations. And this *fact* **proves** that the Lord (YHVH) truly is *far greater*, and *above all*, that is called 'god' (Ps 135:5).

And, the Psalmist (Hezekiah) also *specifically* mentions two *specific* kings here, that were both 'great' and 'famous' (powerful), in order to really 'drive the point home' that there is **no** 'god' *above* Him. So, we're told that "*Sihon king of the Amorites*" and "*Og the king of Bashan*" were both kings the Lord (YHVH) conquered, i.e. He gave Israel the victory over them. You can read about this in Numbers 21:31-32. But the jest of it is (yet again) that, both of these kings attacked Israel *without* provocation (for *no good* reason). Israel even *politely* asked the king of the Amorites (via messengers) if they could pass through their territory (to get to the Promise Land); and they even promised to stick to the 'king's high way' so they wouldn't be a bother to them. Yet, king Sihon wouldn't allow it and sent out his army *against* Israel. So, the Lord (YHVH) – whose '*mercy endureth forever*' - **gave** Israel the victory *over* the Amorites. And then they went towards Bashan, where the king Og lived. Yet again, they were attacked (unprovokedly) and the Lord (YHVH) gave Israel the victory (Num 21:33-35; Deut 29:7-8) … **because** "*His mercy endureth forever*"!

And, it's also important to understand that there were remnants of the giants living in these lands (Num 13:29-33), which further proves that it was indeed the Lord (YHVH) who gave Israel the victory. For, as Deut 3:11 says, Og (the king of Basham) had a bedstead of nine by four cubits, which means he was roughly 18 feet high and 15 feet wide! And this is why the first generation of Israelites (who greatly *lacked* faith in the Lord) refused to attack these nations (Num 13) and thus lost their right to inherit the Promise Land (Num 14). But, the point to these verses is the fact that, each time Israel had victory, it was *because* the Lord (YHVH) was *helping* them! And this truth is amplified by the fact that Israel (who were previously slaves and *didn't* have much experience in war) were able to conquer men (and nations) who were *much* larger, and stronger, than they were. Thus, it truly was Yehovah who 'smote great kings' and 'slew famous kings' and…

Psalm 136
21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:
22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.

So, after the Lord (YHVH) gave Israel the victory over 'great' and 'famous' (powerful) kings (nations), He then *gave those lands* (of the heathen) to Israel, "**for an heritage**" (i.e. ***inheritance***, #5159). And He did so *because* they were **His** 'servant' nation (Deut 7:6-8, 14:2, 18:5, 21:5; Josh 24:22; Ps 33:12, 105:26, 43; Isa 43:11, 41:8-9, 44:21; Jer 33:24-26, etc.). And, indeed, Israel *did* inherit those lands (Num 21:25-35, 32:18-42, 34:14-15, Josh 12:7, 18:7) *as well as* the 'Promise Land' that God (YHVH) had promised Abraham, Issac and Jacob (Gen 12:1-7, Gen 13:14-17, Gen 15:4-5, 18-21, Gen 17:1-11,15-21, Gen 22:15-18, Gen 26:2-5, Gen 28:10-15, Gen 35:9-13). So, Israel's God (Yehovah) *gave them the ability* to conquer the mighty, and powerful, nations of the Amorites and Canaanites (those in Bashan) *east* of the Jordan River yet, He also (true to His Word) cause Israel to inherit *the* 'Promise Land' as well. And the point to bringing this point up is, of course, because it **proves** that Yehovah is *far greater* than *all others* called 'god'. Israel, as a nation, was *not* as large, powerful, or as skilled in war as the 'heathen' nations they conquered. They were actually *slaves* for hundreds of years! So, they had *no* experience in warfare. Yet, when they came out of Egypt, they were able to conquer *incredibly* large, and powerful, nations… that does *not* happen by accident! It was *only* because the Lord (YHVH) *helped* them!

As Psalm 75 so well pointed out, "*For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another*" (Ps 75:6-7). So, this means that there are no rulers on earth (or in heaven) that exist without His approval (Rom 13:1). Of course, this does not mean we should blindly obey all orders from the government. As we learned in past studies, if they order us to do something that requires us to *disobey* God's Word, we are duty bound to simply *not comply* with those illegal orders. For **no one** has the right to order (command) us to *disobey* our Creator (Yehovah). Romans 13 explains

this point if you read the chapter *thoroughly* [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans/44]. So, just as Daniel (Dan 6) and the three Hebrew children (Dan 3) did *not* rebel, but simply *not comply* with illegal orders of the kings they worked for, so too must we *not comply* with illegal orders of our nation, bosses, etc. But, the point to our study is still that, the Lord (YHVH) is the one who allows kings (and nations) to rise and He also causes them to fall. That is also *another* fact that proves He is the *Supreme* God (and Ruler) over **all** the earth! And Psalm 124 also made this point *really well*, when it stated that: if the Lord (YHVH) had not been *for* Israel ('on our side') then Israel would have been 'swallowed up' by the heathen nations *long* before they even came to the Promise Land!

And truly, this should give us *great* comfort. For our Heavenly Father (YHVH) has promised us an eternity where we can live on earth in *total* peace and happiness (Rev 21-22). But, just as Israel had to fight to enter the Promise Land, so too do we have to fight *spiritually*, as Ephesians 6 well explains. And, just as the Lord (YHVH) *always* helped Israel in their battles – so long as they trusted in, and obeyed, Him – so too will He *always* help us in the *spiritual* battles we face, *now* and in the *soon coming* 'great tribulation' (https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/424), when Satan himself (who is the 'antichrist', https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345) is cast *to the earth* with his fallen angels (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2, etc.). But, in order to have the victory over our enemies, we *must* be on God's 'side'. And that means we *must* love, trust and obey **Him** no matter what comes our way! For the Lord (YHVH) has proven (through the history the Bible documents) that He is *well able* to perform that which He promises. And that should give us the confidence to "fight the good fight" (1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:3-4; Eph 6, etc.) just as so many others have done before us (Heb 11-12).

Psalm 136
23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:
24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Now, instead of giving us examples of the 'great wonders' the Lord (YHVH) has done (which prove He is far greater, and above all, others called 'god'), the Psalmist now begins to give us examples of **why** "*His mercy endureth forever*", i.e. His *kindness* (#2617) exists *always and forever* (#5769). And the first example is that He "*remembered us in our low estate*" while the second (which is linked to it) is that He "*redeemed us from our enemies*". Now, the word '**remembered**' (in vs 23) means ***to mark*** (so as to be recognized), i.e. ***to remember*** and, by implication, it can also mean ***to mention*** (#2142). And the words '**low estate**' are one Hebrew word that means ***a humble rank*** (#8216); and it comes from a prim root that means ***to depress*** or ***sink*** but, is often used (figuratively) for ***to humiliate*** (#8213). So, the Psalmist is saying that, one of the (many) reasons the Lord's (YHVH) 'mercy' (kindness) 'endureth forever' (always and forever) is because He remembered them in their 'low estate' *of humiliation*… and when we consider the fact that this Psalm was most likely written by king Hezekiah, this makes sense. For,

as we learned when studying Psalms 119, and the 'song of degrees' (Ps 120-134), Hezekiah (and those in Jerusalem) were not just belittled, but totally *mocked to scorn* by the arrogant Assryians. In fact, they even *reproached* the Lord (YHVH) *Himself*, as 2 Kings 18 and 2 Chron 32 both documents. And, as Psalms 119-134 clearly express, Hezekiah was greatly upset by this. For the Assryians *not only* called him a *liar* but, also *a fool* for **believing** that the Lord (YHVH) *would* (and *could*) save Jerusalem from the 'mighty' Assyrian army. Of course, we know the Assryians were punished *very* severely for *blaspheming* the Living God (YHVH). For, the Lord (YHVH) sent His 'Angel' who killed off 165,000 of the Assyrian's army *in just one night*. And this caused the Assyrians to *flee* from Jersualem, back to Assyria (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22)! But, the point to our study is that the terrible reproach (phycological warfare) from the Assryians *did* make Hezekiah (and those in Jerusalem) like he was in a 'low estate', i.e. it was *humiliating* for him to be spoken of in such a way… *especially* to his own army (2 Kings 28:26-35)!

So, this is likely *why* the Psalmist (who was most likely Hezekiah) wrote that the Lord (YHVH) remembers us in our 'low estate', i.e. even when the heathen tries to *humiliate* us for having faith in the *true* God (YHVH). How some things never change (Ecc 1:9). And this also explains why the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) would go on to write that, "*hath redeemed us from our enemies"*. The word '**redeemed**' here means ***to break off*** or ***crunch*** and (figuratively) also means ***to deliver*** (#6561). And the word '**enemies**' here means ***narrow***, ***a tight place*** (usually figuratively, i.e. ***trouble***) and can also mean (transitive) ***an opponent*** (as crowding) (#6862). Indeed, the Assyrians were 'crowding' Jerusalem into a 'tight place', for they came against the city and threatened to besiege it (i.e. starve them out) *if* they didn't surrender! So, they were also being an opponent to Jerusalem too. Yet, the Lord (YHVH) *did* indeed 'redeem' (deliver) Jerusalem by 'crunching' the 'mighty' Assyrian army when He 'broke off' 165,000 of their army (even the best of their military) in just *one night*! So, Hezekiah had good reason to write that the Lord's (YHVH) "mercy endureth forever" … for he (and Jerusalem) truly *did* experience (first hand) His *great* mercy towards them!

Yet, this is just one (of many) example of how the Lord (YHVH) remembers those who are in a 'low estate'. As it is written, "*The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and* ***saveth*** *such as be of a* ***contrite*** [crushed, #1793] *spirit*. *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all*" (Ps 34:18-19). And, "*thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the* ***humble****, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones*" (Isa 57:15). And again, "*but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*" (Isa 66:2). And again, "*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto* ***the humble***" (Prov 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Pt 5:5). And this is why Jesus told us that, "*Whosoever therefore shall* ***humble himself*** *as this little child, the same is* ***greatest*** *in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt 18:4). And again, "*Blessed are* ***the meek****: for they* ***shall inherit*** *the earth*" (Matt 5:5). Further, Psalm 103 also tells us we should not forget all the 'benefits' the Lord

(YHVH) has given us; such as forgiving our iniquities, healing our diseases, *redeeming our life from destruction* and 'crowning' us with lovingkindness and tender mercies (Ps 103:2-4)! And, indeed, the Lord (YHVH) *has* redeemed us (from our bondage to sin *and* Satan, Heb 2:14) via the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15, etc.)! So, even today, when we feel like we're in a 'low estate', we should *remember* the Promises of God! As well as the history, for it proves that the Lord (YHVH) is well able to save those who are humble themselves *before Him* - which means they seek, *and serve*, **Him** *sincerely*.

Psalm 136
25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

And this is yet another example of **why** "*His mercy endureth forever*", i.e. His *kindness* (#2617) exists *always and forever* (#5769). The word '**food**' here does mean ***food*** (for man or beast, #3899) but is being used as a figure of speech (*Synecdoche*, apx 6) for '***all kinds of food***'. And the word '**flesh**' also means '***flesh***' (or person, #1320) yet, is *also* being used as a figure of speech (*Synecdoche*, apx 6) for '***all living beings*****'**. As Psalm 145 so well says, "*The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing*" (Ps 145:15-16). And this truly is yet another point that proves that Yehovah is the *Supreme* God over all the earth, for He *alone* is our Creator! Not only would we *not be alive at all*, if it were not for Him (Ezek 18:4; Rev 4:11) but, even the food we eat (and water we drink, and air we breathe) *comes from* the Lord (YHVH). So, the fact that we exist *at all* (and are able to *continue* to live) is yet another reason to give Him (only) *all* our praise, glory, worship and reverence.

But further still, it is also the Lord (YHVH) who gives us our daily **spiritual** food. As Jesus so well pointed out, "***I am the bread of life****: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst*" (John 6:35). And this is because, "***It is the spirit that quickeneth*** [makes us alive, #2227, Heb 4:12]*; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words** that I speak unto you, they **are spirit**, and **they are life***" (John 6:63). So, the only spiritual 'food' (and water, John 4) that can sustain us ***forever*** is *the truth*, i.e. ***God's Word*** (John 17:17)! And, that is yet *another* reason to give Him (only) *all* our praise, glory, worship and reverence. Yet, it is *another* point that proves "*His mercy endureth forever*" …

Psalm 136
26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Now the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) ends this Psalm in a similar manner as he began it. So, the words '**give thanks**' again means ***to revere*** or ***worship*** (#3034). However, instead of using God's Sacred (and covenantal) Name (*Yehovah*, #3068), he uses the phrase 'God of heaven". And the word '**God**' here is actually **'El** (#410) which means ***strength*** and ***mighty***. And, while it can be

used of *any* deity, it is also often used (as another 'title') to refer to ***the Almighty God*** who is Omnipotent, which is most certainly how it's being used in this verse. Thus, this 'title' ('El, #410) expresses **the Lord's** (YHVH's) ***strength, power and might***. And that's likely why this 'title' is being used here. For 'El is the God Who knows all (first occ. Gen 14:18-22), sees all (Gen 16:13), performs all things for His people (Ps 57:2) and, in Whom all the Divine attributes are concentrated. So, while the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) has previously used God's Sacred (and Covenantal) name (Yehovah, #3068) and several 'titles' for Him ('Eloyim, #430 and 'Adown, #113), He now uses the term 'God of heaven" *because* He is pointing out that Yehovah is *not just* the Supreme God, our Creator (#430), and the Sovereign Ruler on earth (#113), He's *also* the 'God' of heaven. And the word '**heaven**' again means ***the sky***, which includes ***outer space*** and the *spiritual* dimension *we cannot see* (where He abides; Ps 11, 2 Kings 6:17) (#8064).

In other words, Yehovah is also ***the Almighty God*** (who is Omnipotent) over heaven **too**, *not only* on earth. So, there is *nowhere* that the Lord (YHVH) does *not* have full control of. And this *fact* is, thus, *another* one of the *defining characteristics* that **proves** He is the 'God ***above all*** other gods'. For, unlike the rulers on earth (or angels in heaven), the Lord (YHVH) has *no one* who He is accountable to; for He's the *top* ruler both in heaven *and* earth (again, because He is the Creator of all things). But thankfully, "*The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*" (Ps 145:17)! And, as Deut 32:4 also tells us, "*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he*". So, Yehovah ***truly is*** the "God above all gods', 'Lord above lords', and the 'God of heaven', i.e. the *top* Ruler on earth and in heaven! As Moses so well said, "*Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD* [Yehovah] ***he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else***" (Deut 4:39). And, these truly are *many* reasons we should 'give thanks' to, and praise, the Lord (YHVH) *above* all that is called 'god' in heaven or on earth…

5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)
6 But to us there is but ***one*** *God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ,* ***by whom are all things****, and we by him.*
1 Cor 8:5-6

16 Rejoice evermore.
17 Pray without ceasing.
18 ***In every thing give thanks****:* ***for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***
1 Thess 5:16-18

AMEN.