Part 2 – Great is the Glory of the Lord

In chapter 138, part 1, we learned the subject/title of this Psalm is "***Praise***" because it reminds us of some of the (many) *reasons* we have to praise the *true* God (YHVH). And, this Psalm actually has a subtitle, so we know it's another Psalm written by David, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit of course (2 Tim 3:16-4:1). And David began the Psalm by promising to praise the Lord (YHVH) with his *whole* heart. And truly, worshiping the Lord (YHVH) with *all* of our heart is the *only* way we really *can* worship Him. For outward worship, *without* the inward worship, it truly just *fake* worship *because* you have other things in life that are *more important* to you than loving, and obeying our Heavenly Father. And *fake* worship is truly in 'vain' (i.e. useless, Isa 29:13; Mth 15:3-20; Mk 7:6-23) *because* the Lord (YHVH) *knows* it is fake! And, He does <u>not</u> appreciate fake love any more than we do! So, what our Heavenly Father wants is our *true* love. And, God's 'love language' is *earnest*, and *willful*, obedience – not merely *pretending* to obey Him *outwardly*.

And then we learned how David promised, "*before the gods will I sing praise unto thee*". And we learned that the word 'gods' here (#430) simply refers to the rulers on earth. So, while David began the Psalm by promising to praise (worship and revere) the Lord (YHVH) with *all* of his heart (i.e. earnestly), he then promised to celebrate Him (via song and music) in front of rulers (even kings) on earth. Therefore, David was not promising to 'secretly' worship the Lord (YHVH). Rather, he promised to celebrate God's holy name (YHVH) via song and music, even in front other rulers on earth. As 2 Sam 23:1 so well states, David truly was "*the sweet psalmist of Israel*"! And then David continued to express his *earnest* devotion to the Lord (YHVH) by promising to worship Him towards His holy Temple (the tabernacle), which is the way they were to worship back then. Of course, today we are to worship the Lord (YHVH) *wherever we are* 'in spirit and in truth', as Jesus taught us (John 4:23-24). And that, not only means to love and revere Him, but *also* to put truth (the Word of God) *in* our heart and mind (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 10:16). And we do that by studying it daily (2 Tim 2:15), so that we can *learn* **how** to do what's right.

And then David explained several reasons *why* he was so devoted to praising the Lord (YHVH). For, out all of God's (YHVH) wonderful characteristics (i.e. name), it is His 'lovingkindness' (kindness) and 'truth' (trustworthiness) that *stands out* (is made large, i.e. magnified). As we learned back in Psalm 136 (twenty-six times), "*His mercy endureth forever*". And this is something we can *always* count on because the Lord (YHVH) is <u>always</u> trustworthy! Of course, there is a *stipulation* to obtaining God's 'mercy' (kindness); and that is we *must* ***earnestly*** be seeking Him <u>and</u> striving to *obey* Him, ***from the heart*** (Ps 103:8-18, 145:18-19, etc.). As the Lord (YHVH) swore, "*The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth*" (#Ex 34:6). So, David was even expressing that, all the kindness the Lord (YHVH) had shown him was *beyond his wildest expectations*. After all, he was merely a shepherd boy, but God raised him up to be the king of Israel. And, He also

promised that the Messiah would come *through* David's descendants (2 Sam 7, 1 Chron 17)! And the fact that the Lord (YHVH) gave David such *amazing* promises (which were unconditional) *truly was* kind, and yet, *also* trustworthy that it *would* come to pass! And further, the Word of God truly *was* magnified (largely honored) *above all* (Eph 1:20-23; 4:10, etc.) when Jesus Christ (who **is** the Word *made flesh*, John 1:1,14) *overcame* death and, is therefore the Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev 19:16)!

And then David explained *another* reason he promised to praise the Lord (YHVH) with his *whole* heart. For, the Lord (YHVH) had often been kind to help David when he called out to him for help. And, not only did the Lord (YHVH) hear, and help, David when he 'cried' (called out to) unto Him for help, He *also* strengthened his *inner man* too! And this is *why* David had the courage to fight (and win) *so many* battles throughout his life. But, this 'inner strength' from the Lord (YHVH) *also* gave David the strength to make it through hard times that were *not* physical battles - such as when his *own son*, Absalom, led a rebellion against him. And truly, this is something the Lord (YHVH) does for *all* of His faithful servants, *to this very day*! For, because we are in a flesh body, there is going to be times we are *all* weak. Yet, **if** we faithfully love, revere, and serve Him, He'll *always* give us the strength to get through, or find a way out of, *all* the hard times (*and* temptations) that come upon us (1 Cor 10:13). And it is the very Holy Spirit of God *within us* (from our faith in Jesus Christ, i.e. the Word of God) that gives us this *inner* strength (Eph 3:16-21; Col 1:10-11, 1 Peter 5:10, etc.). So, we should *always* remember this point David brought up. For, just as the Lord (YHVH) always heard, and answered, David when he needed help, **so too** <u>will</u> He do **for us** *when* we're faithfully serving Him! However, David is not done praising the Lord (YHVH)…

Psalm 138
4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

So, after speaking of several *key* reasons David had to praise the Lord (YHVH), he now goes on to speak of (even *prophesy* of) how the Lord (YHVH) would be praised *by others*. Now, the word '**all**' here means ***the whole***, i.e. ***all, any*** or ***every*** (#3605) while the word '**kings**' does indeed mean ***a king*** (#4428). And the word '**praise**' again means (in the context of this verse) to ***revere***, or ***worship***, *with extended hands* (#3034). And the word '**Lord**' here is God's sacred (and covenantal) name ***Yehovah*** [i.e. YHVH, https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946], which means (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068). So, the use of His Sacred Name points to the fact that *only* our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is eternal *because* He's the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). So, not only was David devoted to praising (revering and worshipping) the *true* God (YHVH) but, he *also* knew that even the kings of the earth would do so "*when they hear the words of thy mouth*". The words '**when they hear**' are <u>one</u> Hebrew word that means ***to hear <u>intelligently</u>*** and, is often used with the implication of

attention and even ***obedience*** (#8085). And then the word '**words**' simply means ***something said*** (#561) while the word '**mouth**' is referring to (in the context of this verse) ***speech*** (#6310).

So, in this precious Psalm 'of praise' we see how David is *not merely* thinking about his own *personal* worship, he is *also* thinking about the Lord (YHVH) being praised (even revered and worshipped) by *others*… even *all the kings* of the earth! And, this is probably one of the reasons David wrote so many Psalms, i.e. so the truth about God's wonderful characteristics (and, in particular, that of His *kindness* and *trustworthiness*) could be shared with others, *even* the kings of the earth *who were heathen*! So, we see that David was thinking about *sharing* God's Word (truth) with *more* than just those in his own nation. Said another way, he wanted **all** the world to worship the *true* God, Yehovah (i.e. YHVH)! Indeed, this is one of the reasons God chose Israel to be His 'servant nation'. For He gave His righteous Laws (which reveal His righteous ways) to Israel, not only for their own good (Deut 10:13), but *also* to be a blessing to *other* nations too (via sharing God's Laws). That's *why* He prophesied that, through the descendants ('seed) of Abaraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel, "***all*** *families of the earth*' would be 'blessed' (Gen 12:3, Gen 22:18, Gen 26:4, Gen 28:14). And, as Paul pointed out, (in Gal 3:16), this promise ultimately looked towards *the* 'Seed' (descendant) – Jesus Christ - who would shed His righteous blood to atone for the sins of **all** people in the world, *whomsoever* would believe upon Him (Gal 3:24-29).

And, when Israel was a powerful nation (such as in David and Solomon's reign), many people from other nations did come to learn of (and worship) the *true* God (YHVH). And that's because, the success that 'Israel's God' gave them (when they *obeyed* His Laws) *caused* the heathen (even the rulers) to *desire* to worship their God (YHVH) too. And this was truly manifested when Solomon was king. For "***God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart****, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom* ***excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt****. For* ***he was wiser than all men****; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol:* ***and his fame was in all nations round about.*** *And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And* ***there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom***" (1 Kings 4:29-34). And, the 'wisdom' Solomon had **was** wisdom *from the Lord* (YHVH)! And, as 1 Kings 10 documents, even the Queen of Sheba travelled, a *long* way, just to hear the wisdom that God gave to Solomon! And she truly did praise the Lord (YHVH) when she heard of all of Solomon's wisdom that the Lord (YHVH) gave him (1 Kings 10:9)! And 1 Kings 10:24 also tells us that, "*And* ***all the earth*** *sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom,* ***which God had put in his heart***".

So, in the *historical* sense (yet future to David's day), the kings of the earth *did* praise the Lord (YHVH) and that was *because of* the wisdom the Lord (YHVH) gave to Solomon, i.e. when they

heard the words of the Lord's mouth (which He gave to Solomon), they *did* praise the *true* God (YHVH)! Yet, this verse is also *prophetical* for when the Messiah (Jesus Christ) *returns* to the earth, i.e. Jesus' Second Advent. For, during the thousand years Jesus Christ will rule (before the 'Great White Throne Judgment, Rev 20), God's Word will indeed be taught to the *entire* world, via those who are in Jesus' righteous governmental administration (i.e. the Body of Christ). As it is written, "*at the name of Jesus **every** knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that **every** tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*" (Phil 2:10-11; Rom 14:11; Isa 45:23-25).

Psalm 138
5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.

So, after prophesying how *all* the kings of the earth would praise the *true* God (YHVH) when they heard His Word spoken (taught with clarity), David now prophesies of how they would even *sing* 'in the ways' of the Lord, which would be better rendered as '***of** the ways of the Lord*'. Now, the word '**sing**' here does mean ***to sing*** (#7891) while the word '**way**' means ***a road*** (as trodden) and, figuratively, also means ***a course of life*** or ***mode of action*** (#1870*). And, when this word is used in reference to people, it's speaking of the 'road' we *metaphorically* 'walk', or the 'course of life' we take. In other words, it is the 'way' we live our life - either to serve our 'self' (sin, the lusts of the flesh) or our Heavenly Father (the way of righteousness, 1 Pt 4:1-2). So, when it's speaking of 'the ways of the Lord' (YHVH) it is referring to the '*way of righteousness'* (Prov 8:21) which **is** *the* '*way of life*' (Prov 12:28)! So, all of God's (YHVH) 'ways' (course of life, mode of action) lead (or teach) us how to do *what's right*; and thus, God's 'ways' teach us how to live *eternally*. This is why Jesus Christ said, "*And **this is** life eternal, that they might **know thee** the **only true God**, and **Jesus Christ**, whom thou hast sent*" (John 17:4). And to know the *only* true God (YHVH) means knowing His Words (the Bible), which is *the* truth (John 17:17). And that's why we must *also* know Jesus Christ; for the Lord (YHVH) sent Jesus *to teach us the truth* (John 18:37) *as well as* to atone for our sins (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15, etc.).

And, as Paul pointed out (Rom 10:13-15), we cannot know 'God' (or Jesus Christ) *unless **the truth*** (His Word, John 17:17) *is taught to us*. So again, this verse 5 is also *prophesying* of the great Millennium period [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/421] when Jesus will rule the world *and* His righteous servants *will teach the world His Word* (which is the truth) for a thousand years *before* the 'Great White Throne Judgment' happens (i.e. when those who *didn't* make the *first* resurrection will either be spiritually *blotted out of existence*, or given *eternal* life, Rev 20). And so, as the Lord (YHVH) swore, "*all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD*" (Num 14:21), so it *shall* come to pass! But, we also saw a 'type' of this when Solomon ruled; for many of the kings of the earth came to Jerusalem to hear God's 'words of wisdom' that came from Solomon's mouth. And, when all people (even the kings of the earth) hear God's Word, they *will* be singing because, "***great is the glory of the LORD***", as the latter part of this Ps 137:4

states. And this is the conclusion that people (with a sound mind) *cannot help* but come to *once* they hear *the truth* (God's Word). Now, the word '**great**' here means ***great in any sense*** (#1419). And the Webster's dictionary defines 'great' as: ***remarkable in magnitude, degree***, and/or ***effectiveness***. And the word '**glory**' means ***weight*** (but only figuratively, *in a good sense*) as well as ***splendor*** or ***copiousness*** (i.e. *abundance*, *prosperity*) (#3519). It's also been rendered as: glorious (-ly), glory, and honour (-able). In other words, even the kings of the heathen will praise (and sing) to the Lord (YHVH) when they *fully* understand just *how* wise His 'ways' are. For, indeed, all the ways of the Lord (YHVH) *are* [righteous] *judgment*, <u>because</u> He is the **only** *God <u>of truth</u>*, *<u>without iniquity</u>*, ***just and right is He*** (Deut 32:4). As Jesus so well said, the Words of God are *what* give us life *eternal* (John 6:63)! So, because God's 'ways' are *perfectly* right, just fair, loving, merciful (etc.), even the kings of the heathen will praise, revere and worship the Lord (YHVH) for His *awesome* holy characteristics!

Psalm 138
6 Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

So, after speaking of how all the kings of the earth will praise, and sing to, the Lord (YHVH) when they hear of His righteous ways, David now begins to explain *more* of the righteous 'ways of the Lord (YHVH)'. Now, the word '**Lord**' here is again God's Sacred (and covenantal) name, ***Yehovah*** (#3068) which means the ***self-Existent*** and ***Eternal*** (#3068). So again, this points out that He is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is *why* He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And then the word '**high**' here is a prim root that means ***to be high actively, to rise*** or ***raise*** (#7311). And truly, the Lord (YHVH) being 'high' is two-fold. For, in the *physical* sense, He is 'high' *because* He's in a *much* higher dimension, that we *cannot* see <u>with our flesh eyes</u>, which is 'above' the sky and even what we call 'outer space'. As Ps 113:4 so well said, "*The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens*". And Ps 11:4 also told us that, "*The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven*". So, the Lord (YHVH) is 'high' because He's in *another dimension* that's truly on a much 'higher' level (measurement) than can be seen in the flesh body (i.e. with our flesh eyes). As Heb 11:3 points out, the worlds (ages) were framed by the Word of God, which is why the things we see around us *were not made by* things which do appear to our *flesh* eyes. Now, there are sometimes exceptions to this (2 Kings 6:17; Acts 7:55-56) but, normally we (who live in flesh bodies) cannot see into that 'heavenly' dimension *because* it's a much 'higher' dimension than our flesh bodies are in. And, our flesh eyes are *specially* made (by God) to *only* see things in this flesh dimension around us. Again, that's why our Heavenly Father is 'high above' all the nations on earth, in a *physical* sense.

But, in the *spiritual* sense, our Heavenly Father is 'high above' all nations because His ways, and thoughts' are <u>*way* far above</u> all others, as He pointed out in Isa 55:6-11. So, our Heavenly Father

thinks on a *much higher* level than flesh mankind does. And, as we've also learned, our Heavenly Father *is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17) and His righteousness *is an everlasting righteousness*, which is **why** *His law is the truth* (Ps 119:142). And that is why He is the only *God of truth* who is also *without iniquity*, for He's ***always*** *just and right* (Deut 32:4). So again, that's why (in the *spiritual* sense) He is so much 'higher' than 'all nations' on earth. From His thoughts, to His ways, to His desire (will) to His plans and works, our Heavenly Father truly is 'higher' than all others. Yet, even though we're in a flesh body, our Heavenly Father still calls us to learn to think in a 'higher' way, as He does. In Romans 8 (vs 5-8) Paul calls the way we think in a flesh body as being 'carnally minded' (i.e. focused on 'self' and things of this flesh life). But, when we study God's Word, and begin to understand God's 'ways', 'thoughts' and 'plans' then (with time) we begin to be '*spiritually* minded'. And this means we begin to see the beauty of God's plan of salvation. So, instead of living life to fulfil our 'lusts of the flesh', 'lusts of the eyes [mind]' and 'pride of life' (1 John 2:16) we learn to live life *for the purpose of* serving our Heavenly Father, not our 'lusts of the flesh' (1 Pt 4:1-2).

So then (going back to Psalm 138:6), even though the Lord (YHVH) is 'high' (in a dimension we *cannot* see and, thinks on a *much* higher level than we do), He still has "***respect unto the lowly***". The word '**respect**' here means ***to see*** (literally or figuratively, #7200) and the word '**lowly**' means ***depressed*** (literally or figuratively, #8217). But, this isn't speaking of being 'depressed' in the way we use this word today (i.e. unhappy); it's referring to being ***meek*** or ***humble***, i.e. the opposite of having a proud (or haughty) spirit. So, even though the Lord (YHVH) is much 'higher' than we are (physically and spiritually) He still has 'respect' (looks at) those who are 'lowly' (humble, meek). As the Lord (YHVH) said via His prophet Isaiah, "*but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor* [depressed, needy, or humble, #6041] *and of a contrite* [smitten, dejected, #5223] *spirit, and trembleth at my word*" (Isa 66:2). So, those who humble themselves before the Lord (YHVH) and 'trembleth' (fear and revere, 2730) His Word, are 'seen' by Him whilst "***the proud he knoweth afar off***". The word '**proud**' here means ***elevated*** (or elated), ***powerful***, or ***arrogant*** (#1364) while the word '**knoweth**' means ***to know*** (i.e. to ascertain by seeing) and is used in a great variety of senses, such as: *observation, care, recognition*; and causatively, *instruction, designation, punishment*, etc.) *including punishment* (#3045). And the words '**afar off**' mean ***remoteness***, i.e. (concretely) ***a distant place*** and also means (adverbially) ***from afar*** (#4801). An earlier Psalm we studied explains this really well…

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.
7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; ***his countenance doth behold the upright.***
Ps 11:4-7

The word '**behold**' in verse 4 means ***to gaze at***, ***to perceive***, or even ***to contemplate*** *with pleasure* (#2372). And the word '**try**' means ***to test*** (especially metals) or ***to investigate*** (#974). So clearly, the Lord (YHVH) sees *all* of what goes on in the earth, no matter *where* it is. And He also hears *everyone's* prayers, for He can read our heart and mind. And He even knows what we're *thinking* about doing and what we *truly desire* (1 Chron 28:9; Ps 44:20-21, 94:11; Jer 16:17, Jer 17:9-10; Ezek 11:5; Heb 4:12-13). But, those who He has 'respect' to (i.e. who He helps) are those who are 'lowly', which means they are humble and sincere - not proud or arrogant. For those who are proud are those who 'He knoweth afar off', which simply means He does *not* answer their prayers, nor help them. In fact, He *punishes* them! Psalms 145 also tells us that, the Lord (YHVH) is *only* 'nigh' (close to) those who call upon Him *in truth*. And, as such, He *will* hear their cries *and save* them (Ps 145:18-19). So, being 'lowly' also means that we're *sincerely* seeking Him, i.e. trying to learn of Him and obey Him. But, those who are proud and arrogant simply won't receive any help from the Lord (YHVH) for "*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*" (James 4:6; 1 Pt 5:5; Prov 3:34). And that's why we should be "*clothed with humility*" (1 Pt 5:5), which means we should humble ourselves <u>in the sight of the Lord</u> (YHVH), for only *then* will He 'lift us up', i.e. help us (James 4:10; 1 Pt 5:6)!

So, the 'bottom line' is that our Heavenly Father treats us *according to* how we treat Him *and* others (Ps 18:25-27; Mth 18:21-35, etc.). So, even though we may be poor, we may not be 'highly educated', and we might not be the best looking (etc.), our Heavenly Father will *still* hear our prayers, and help us, IF we are earnestly seeking to learn of Him *and obey* Him. But, if we're too proud to do that then, we *are* going to get a good 'paddling' from our Heavenly Father. After all, His chastisements are for our good (Heb 12). And those who are too hard hearted to repent from His chastisements, He then will move on to *punishing* them (Isa 57:15-21). So, this quality of how the Lord (YHVH) hears the prayers of those who are 'lowly' (*so long as* they seek Him sincerely *and* humbly) is yet *another* reason to praise the Lord (YHVH)…

Psalm 138
7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

So, after speaking of how righteous (and faithful) the Lord (YHVH) is to hear (*and* help) those who are 'lowly' (earnestly seeking Him), and *not* to help those who are *too* proud to seek, and obey *Him*, David now speaks of *another* reason to praise the Lord (YHVH). Now, the word '***though***' here is a *primitive particle* that can be used in a <u>demonstrative</u> way (lo!), <u>interrogative</u> way (whether?), a <u>negative</u> way (not) or in a <u>conditional</u> way (if or, although) (#518). So, in the context of this verse, it is being used in a *conditional* way, so this word 'though' would have been better rendered as ***if***. So, David is really saying that IF he 'walks' (literally or figuratively, #3212) in the 'midst' (*center* or, *nearest part*, #7130) of 'trouble' (which does mean *trouble*,

figuratively, #6869) he knows that the Lord (YHVH) will 'revive' (cause him *to live* or *revive* him, #2421). And how will this be done? Well, David was assured that the Lord (YHVH) would 'stretch forth' (*send out*, #7971) His 'hand' (the *open* hand, *indicating power*, #3027) 'against' (or *upon*, #5921) the 'wrath' (*ire*, #639) of his 'enemies' (*adversaries*, those *who hate him*, #341) and 'save' (free, succor, #3467) him with His 'right hand' (i.e. power hand, #3225).

And David well knew this to be a *fact* <u>because of</u> the many times in his life the Lord (YHVH) save him out of many troubles, from people who made themselves an enemy of David. One of the best examples was when the first king of Israel (Saul) became jealous of David. And, as such, he began to try and *kill* him! And, after several times of avoiding the javelin being thrown at him, David fled to the wilderness. Yet, Saul still went after him and chased David (*for years*) trying to *kill* him. And even though this was a very trying time for David, the Lord (YHVH) *still* saved him from death, even though he came close to it *several* times! And then, of course, there were the many battles David fought against the enemies of Israel – both before, and after, he became the king of Israel. So, when David says that *if* he walked in the mist of trouble, he *knew* the Lord (YHVH) would save him from his enemies (*and* spiritually revive is courage), this comes from *many* past experiences from the Lord (YHVH) saving him! And this verse is similar to another Psalm David wrote, where he stated, "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me*" (Ps 23:4).

So, David well knew the Lord is able to save those who love, fear and obey Him; for he *personally* experienced this *time and time again*… even though he was raised as just a 'lowly' shepherd boy! And the many examples of how the Lord (YHVH) saved David from death (and spiritual turmoil) should give **us** *great* comfort, and strength, that He **is** able (*and willing*) to do the same <u>to us</u> **IF** we love, fear and obey Him *as fervently* as David did. After all, David refused to kill Saul (even though he twice had the chance) because he had been anointed as king of Israel by God himself… despite the fact God rejected Saul and had anointed David to be the new king. And David had the ability to refrain himself, from taking vengeance upon Saul, *because* he knew the Lord (YHVH) was well able to avenge those who persecute His servants (1 Sam 24:12-15), as well as to fulfill His Word, i.e. that David was anointed to be king (1 Sam 16:13). And, even when Saul admitted he knew David would be king one day, David still swore not to harm his descendants because of what Saul had done to him (1 Sam 24:20-22).

Further, this verse is still a promise to us today. So, the Lord (YHVH) will **still** save us out of all our troubles (and temptations) *so long as* we remain humble before Him <u>and</u> *earnestly* try to obey Him. As it is written (in another Psalm of David), "*The LORD preserveth **all them that love him**: but all the wicked <u>will he destroy</u>*" (Ps 145:20). And again (by Peter), "*The Lord knoweth how to <u>deliver the godly</u> out of temptations, **and** to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment <u>to be punished</u>*" (2 Peter 2:9). So, (as another Psalm of David taught us) we shouldn't 'fret' (get frothingly angry about) what the evil people on earth do. For even though we too walk in the

'shadow of death' (in this troublesome world), the Lord (YHVH) will *also* deliver us from our enemies IF we continue to seek, fear, love and obey Him. For He is *fully able* to protect, and save, His servants from any (and all kinds) of troubles, trials, tribulations, as well as temptations (1 Cor 10:13). So, of a truth, the Lord (YHVH) IS '*mighty to save*' (Isa 63:1) **because** His 'right hand [arm]' IS mighty, strong and high above *all* others (Ps 89:13,118:16)!

Psalm 138
8 The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

So, after speaking of how the Lord (YHVH) is fully able save him (and us) from his enemies, David now speaks of how the Lord (YHVH) is also able to keep His Word. Now, the word '**Lord**' here (both times) is still God's Sacred Name, ***Yehovah*** (i.e. YHVH #3068). And, by using His Sacred name, David is pointing out that he ***is*** in a *covenantal* relationship with the Lord (YHVH). And that's *because* he earnestly tried to obey the Lord (YHVH) *from the heart*. Now, the rest of this verse is a bit hard to understand; so let's look at the Hebrew. The word '**perfect**' simply means ***to end***, *in the sense of* ***completion*** (#1584) while the words '**concerneth me**' means ***in up to*** or, ***over against***; and, (generally) can also mean ***at, beside, among, behind, for***, etc. (#1157). And the word '**mercy**' here means ***kindness*** (#2617) while the words '**for ever**' mean ***concealed***, i.e. ***the vanishing point***, ***time out of mind*** (past or future), i.e. (practically) ***eternity***; and can even be rendered as ***always*** (#5769). And then the word '**forsake**' means ***to slacken*** (in many applications, literal or figurative, #7503) while the word '**works**' ***an action*** (good or bad), i.e. a *transaction*, *activity*, a *product*, or *property* (#4639). And then the word '**hands**' again means ***the open hand***, which indicates *power, means* and *direction* (#3027).

Now, let's look at a few other translations. Moffett renders this as "*The Eternal intervenes on my behalf; Eternal One, thy kindness never fails, thou wilt not drop the work thou has begun*" while the Greens Interlinear renders it as "*Oh Yehovah, your mercy endures forever; the works of your hands do not forsake*". So, while the Hebrew does make this verse a bit hard to translate into the English, it's clear that David was assured that the Lord (YHVH) would 'perfect' (complete) – and not forsake (slacken) - the 'works' (actions) He has promised to do. And that's because His 'mercy' (kindness) 'endures forever' (always into eternity) – as Psalm 136 made so clear… twenty-six times! And *this* is the verse that *implies* David *might* have written this Psalm *after* the Lord (YHVH) gave him some wonderful (and unconditional) promises, i.e. that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come through his descendants and establish a throne (and kingdom) that would last *forever* (as 2 Sam 7 and 2 Chron 17 both record). But, regardless of when David wrote it, it's clear he was assured that the Lord's (YHVH) kindness *never* fails towards those who are *earnestly* seeking Him, love Him and are trying to obey Him, *from the heart*. And that's why He always 'follows through' (completes) the promises He has made – be it to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel, David or, even *to us today*! And the Lord (YHVH) has *not only* promised to

send His Son (Jesus Christ) back to take over the world - to put down the wicked ones and rule righteously with His faithful servants – but, He's *also* promised us a wonderful eternity where 'death' will be *totally* done away with (swallowed up, Isa 25:8-9) and where they will be ***no more*** death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev 21:4-5). And these are *amazing* (and precious) promises we must *never* forget. For, like David, we *will* have hard times come upon us; yea, even temptations that are hard to resist. Yet, if we continue to seek the Lord (YHVH) with *all* our heart, mind and soul – and strive *earnestly* to obey Him – then He will *always* help us through anything that comes (1 Cor 10:13). That is, after all, *why* He's given us His written Word, and Holy Spirit, to dwell *within us*! So, as long as we *don't* forsake Him, the Lord (YHVH) will *never* (***ever***) forsake us...

Psalm 138
To the chief Musician.

Now, this chapter ends with a subscription. And, while most Bibles show it at the *beginning* of the next chapter, the *Companion Bible* puts it **correctly** at the *end* of this 138th chapter. You can read through appendix 64 (in the *Companion Bible*) to learn *why*. But, the *reason* this verse ends with this subscription of "*To the chief Musician"* is because it means '*to He that has the victory'* or '*to He that gives the victory*' – which, of course, is Jesus Christ! So, after praising the Lord (YHVH) for helping him through *so many* hard times in his life, David then publicly proclaims that, the *only* way we can have the victory, is through the Lord (YHVH) *and* the Savior He has sent us – which is, of course, Jesus Christ! So, even when we are in times of trouble, it is Jesus Christ who revives our inner man (with truth, strength and comfort) via His Holy Spirit *within us*. And this really is the 'key' to overcoming sin *and* our arch enemy, Satan. Moreover, it's one of the many reasons to praise (revere and worship) the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty! As another Psalm of David so well said, "*I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation*" (Ps 118:21)…

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.
3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.
4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.
5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.
Isa 12:2-5

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, <u>then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written</u>, ***Death is swallowed up in victory.***
55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
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 15:54-58

AMEN.