

Part 2 – Supplications for Recompense

In part 1 we learned that this Psalm is a *‘prayer for punishment of the wicked’*, which is why David began the prayer by ‘crying’ (calling out to) the Lord (YHVH) for help. He also begged the Lord not to be silent because His silence would make David feel like he was one of the sinners who the Lord refuses to hear because they don’t love, respect or obey Him. Yet, David did love the Lord with all his heart. And he also repented for his sins and continued to search his heart (as Psalms 26 pointed out) to see if there was any sin left he needed to repent for, or if there were any actions he needed to change. That’s why David said the Lord was his ‘Rock’. David’s faith was firmly founded upon God’s Word (Jesus Christ) and he knew the Lord was the *only one* who could help him during his times of trouble. And, David did have many troubles in his life. But, as Psalms 18 explained, the Lord delivered him out of them all. But this prayer was written at a time when David was under immense persecutions, so we will continue to see him ‘cry out’ (call out) to the Lord for help. And it’s a good lesson for us too. When we’re going through hard times, it does not hurt for us to pray to God and ask Him for help because He’s truly the only one who can help us. For indeed, the Lord delights in helping those who are oppressed by the wicked for He does not like to see His children hurt each other. But, what we must also learn from David is to make sure we are doing ‘our part’ to deserve God’s help. For, if we are willingly holding sin in our heart, we don’t deserve God’s mercy, grace or help. So, it’s good to continue to seek our Heavenly Father by studying His Word, examining our self (our heart, mind, words and actions) to see if we need to change anything. If we do find sin, we must quickly repent (sincerely) of it and strive to change it, from the inside out (from our heart and mind to our actions and words). If we diligently do this, we can rest assured, no matter how hard times get, the Lord will always help us because (to reiterate) the Lord (YHVH) does delight in helping those who are oppressed. So, let’s continue on in this ‘prayer of punishment for the wicked’ to see what else the Holy Spirit, through David, teaches us...

Psalm 28

2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.

David continues to plead with God to hear his supplications, which means his *earnest* prayer (#8469). The word ‘earnest’ means *an intense and serious state of mind* and that’s important because if we are not sincere then the Lord *won’t* hear us. Why would He? He doesn’t appreciate anyone playing ‘mind games’ with Him anymore than you do. But, David *was* sincere and that’s why he goes on to say that he lifted up his hands towards God’s holy ‘oracle’ when he prayed. The word ‘oracle’ here means *the shrine or innermost part of the sanctuary* (#1687). In other words the ‘oracle’ was the Holies of Holies in the Tabernacle (Temple) of God *where His mercy seat* (which sat upon the Ark of the Covenant) *was*. And we should understand that His ‘mercy seat’ was (and is) His throne. That’s what Satan covets (Isa 14:13-14, 2 Thess 2:4, Ezek 28:2,6,9. And David references this ‘oracle’ because *that’s where God spoke from back then*; in other words, *it was where the word of Yehovah was heard*. Of course, today we do not worship God at that any Temple because we don’t sacrifice animals for our sins anymore - because Jesus Christ

has died for our sins and that replaces all the physical sacrifices *for all times* (Heb 10:10). In John 4:23-24 Jesus told us we now worship God ‘in spirit and in truth’, meaning that we must worship Him *in our heart and soul*. That’s why Paul says that we are the Temple of God when His Holy Spirit dwells within us (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 5:16). And so, in order to truly worship the Lord (YHVH) we must be sincere in our prayers to Him (as David was) *and* we must also believe in the Messiah (Jesus Christ) who God sent to pay for our sins. But, David uses this term of lifting his hands towards the ‘oracle’ in the Holies of Holies (i.e. His Mercy seat that He sat upon, which was *on top of* the Ark of the Covenant) *because* it expressed the *sincerity* of his heart, as well as his *firm faith* that God is real and rewards those who sincerely love, worship and serve Him (Heb 11:6). David makes a similar statement in Ps 141:2 when he wrote: *Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice*. So, lifting up his hands towards God was *a physical way to show he was seeking God*, in his spirit, *with all* of his heart, mind, soul and strength – which is how we too are to seek Him (Deut 6:5, 26:16, 30:2, Mk 12:30).

Psalm 28

3 Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.

The word ‘draw’ here does indeed mean ‘draw’ in the Hebrew (#4900) but it’s used in a great variety of applications, including *to sow, to sound, to prolong, to develop, to march, to remove, to delay, to be tall*, etc. So, David clearly does not want to be treated as the wicked are. Which implies that he apparently feels as though he being treated as though he were a wicked person (by flesh man) due to the nature of his prayer. And then he points out a specific sin that wicked, and the ‘workers of iniquity’ do – they speak ‘peace’ (kindly) to other people while mischief (bad or evil thoughts, #7451) is really in their heart. So, this is likely one of the things that was happening (or had happened) to David. If this Psalm was written at the time of Absalom’s rebellion (which we don’t know for sure because there’s not title that tells us when it’s written) then it’s easy to understand why David would insert this specific sin in his prayer. For, during that rebellion, there were several of David’s close allies who betrayed him. First off, *his own son* had betrayed him by claiming the throne for himself (just as Satan had done to God), which was extremely painful for him. But what was also painful was the fact that one of his own close counsellors, Ahithophel the Gilonite, betrayed him for he was among the conspirators against David (2 Sam 15:12). This man’s counsel was always very good; so much so that 2 Sam 16:23 tells us that his counsel *was as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God*. When David heard Ahithophel had turned on him and supported Absalom, David prayed to the Lord: *O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness* (2 Sam 15:31). And indeed, the Lord did, because Absalom ended up not taking some of his counsel and Ahithophel ended up committing suicide because of it (2 Sam 17:23).

So, this is one example of why David [perhaps] referred to the vain words of the wicked and ‘workers of iniquity’ who speak ‘peace’, but are really devising evil in their hearts against those they are talking nicely to. And David didn’t want to be counted amongst those kinds of people

because he truly had not done this to others (Ps 15:2). And what we should learn (and remember) from this is that this method of saying words of ‘peace’, yet devising evil against others, is a **key tactic** of wicked people, as well as others who are merely ‘workers of iniquity’. So, whether it’s done by the government (politicians do this a lot) or individuals, it’s something we must be on guard for. Prov 29:5 warns us that *a man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet*. So, be on guard when people use flatteries on you or give you great promises of ‘peace and prosperity’. As Jesus told us in Matt 7:20, *by their fruits ye shall know them*. Look more at what people *do*, not so much as what they say because *people do lie*. And this is why, when we hear of people talk about ‘world peace’ without it coming from the *true*, Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ) we should be on guard. There can be no lasting peace, or prosperity, without the *true* Jesus Christ returning. However, many politicians (and other leaders, even some Pastors) try to tell us that if we just get the world to come together and make a one world government (and one world religion) then we can have true ‘peace’ (Ps 2). This is truly a dangerous prospect because what this (false) promise of ‘peace’ actually *leads us to is worshiping the antichrist himself*, who is *Satan* (2 Thess 2). So, let’s discipline ourselves to not foolishly believe in people’s promises and instead look at their ‘fruits’. And always, we should continue to learn of, *and trust in*, the promises God gives us in His Word.

Psalm 28

4 Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

5 Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation (actual execution) of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

In his disgust for what the wicked are doing to him, David asks the Lord (YHVH) to give them (the wicked and ‘workers of iniquity’) according to their ‘**deeds**’, which means an ‘**act**’ or ‘**work**’ (#6467). And the word ‘**endeavours**’ here means ‘**an act**’ (good or bad, #4611). The *Companion Bible* notes this would be better rendered as ‘practices’. And the word ‘**desert**’ here means **treatment**, i.e. **an act** (of good or ill); by implication, **service or requital** (#1576). So, David is simply asking for God to judge them according to their *actions*, which of course, is how God judges. And the reason David asks for the Lord (YHVH) to judge them (give them according to their deeds) is because they don’t care about the works of the Lord (His Word) or His ability to govern His creation. In Rom 2:1-11 Paul points out that there’s no ‘respect of persons’ with God. This simply means that the Lord (nor Jesus Christ) is partial in His judgment. Whether of our race (or gender), we’ll still be punished for unrepentant sin. And regardless of our race (or gender) we’ll still be rewarded for faithfully following Jesus Christ. Our ‘race’ won’t save us from God’s wrath, nor will being physically circumcised, nor will any amount of shallow traditions or rituals save us; because, in order to truly accept the atonement that Jesus’ blood provides for us, we must change our heart, mind and actions to conform to the righteousness of God (Col 3:10). If we don’t do that then we have not sincerely accepted Jesus Christ because there’s no way you can follow Jesus Christ and not do what He says (Lk 6:46-49). Further, Jesus told us that if we really do love Him then we will ‘keep’ (obey and guard in our heart) His Words (John 14:15,23). And He specifically said that those who don’t love Him are those who don’t

keep His sayings (John 14:24). So, as we say today, ‘the proof is in the pudding’. And this is why David then goes on to say that the Lord shall destroy (and not build up) the wicked and workers of iniquity.

So, these verses reinforce the ‘common theme’ of the Bible, which we learned about back in chapter Psalm 9, part 5 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/76]. The wicked **will** ‘fall’ by their own ‘pits’ *and* by their own ‘nets’ (snares, traps) they make for the righteous. And their own words and wicked ways will come back to ‘bite’ them, big time. Prov 12:13 tells us that *the wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble*. In other words, the wicked of this earth will be convicted, and die, *by their own sword*, - which is to say, *by the weapons of their own devising*, including the lies and deception and pronouncements coming out of their mouths which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). Because this point is so important to remember, let’s review some of the things we learned back a few chapters...

The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

Ps 10:2

In this chapter, David asked that the wicked be taken in the (wicked) devices that they have imagined. And recall how, back in Psalm 5:10, David made a similar request of our heavenly Father, based on **the idea that the wicked will be destroyed by their own devious plotting...**

*Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall **by their own counsels**; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.*

Psa 5:10

David points out something very important in this verse: the wicked devices that the wicked people use are directly in rebellion to God Almighty. **And this is the basis that David asks for them to ‘fall’ by their own wicked ‘counsels’**. *Because* they are rebelling against the Most-High God, they *should* fall by the very things they use to entrap others, because they are not only oppressing others, but trying to cause them to rebel against God Almighty (YHVH) too. After all, when people are consumed with sin, they are easy to be manipulated and controlled. Likewise, back in Psalm 7:14-17, we also read of the same theme regarding the wicked and their final retribution from the Lord...

14 Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.

*15 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch **which he made**.*

*16 **His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.***

17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

Ps 7:14-17

In other words, ***it's the policy of the Lord (YHVH) to allow the wicked to be taken in their own evil devices.*** What's so profound about this is that, they don't even see that the very traps they've set for us, or the tools they've used against us, *are the same ones God will use to take them down.* And, in Psalm 57:6, David confirms that this is *exactly* what he's witnessed with his own eyes...

They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

Ps 57:6

David ends that verse with the word “Selah,” meaning to pause and meditate on this powerful truth he's revealed. Why meditate on it? Because, as it was in David's time, ***so it remains to this very day.*** The enemy are taken in their own snares, *as the Scriptures document.* And, in Psalm 69:22, David further demonstrates that our Heavenly Father ‘catches’ the wicked in their own devices, saying...

Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.

Ps 69:22

Now, the food on the table of the Lord is *His Word* of instructions and wisdom (the Word of God). It's what sustains us, spiritually [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/463>]. Likewise, the food on the table of the enemies of the Lord consists of their doctrine, as well. But David asks that they be snared and trapped *by their own words.* Likewise, Psalm 64:1-10 demonstrates that the enemy will be foiled *in their own lies and deceit.* Let's take a quick look at those ten verses...

1 Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

Ps 64:1-2

Note here that the subject of this Psalm is David asking Father's protection from the secret counsel (conspiratorial plans) of the wicked, and from the insurrection (overt, and covert, rage and rebellion) of the workers of iniquity.

3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

Ps 64:3

Their sword is *their tongue.* And their arrows are their bitter (*deceptive*) words of false doctrine. In other words, their chief weapons are speech – i.e., deceptive doctrine. That's important to

remember, for it's what we must be diligently on guard against (Deut 4:9,23, 11:16; Mth 24:4; Lk 12:15, 21:8, 34; 1 Cor 10:12; 1 Tim 4:16; Heb 3:12).

4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect [those who are spiritually mature in God's Word]: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.

Ps 64:4

The enemies of God don't want Christians coming out of the Church system of empty traditions, and into the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>], nor do they want unbelievers coming into the Light of Christ either. And to help prevent it, **they take aim at teachers who know their Father's Word; those who teach and preserve it with diligence and courage.**

5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them?

*6 They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both **the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.***

Ps 64:4-6

The enemy is constantly laying traps for the faithful, and righteous, followers of Jesus Christ. They're not only steeped in their own wickedness, but they search out the sins of those they seek to destroy (Christ's servants) in order to accuse and shame them. But our Heavenly Father assures us in Romans 8 that...

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Rom 8:33-34

And, as it is again written...

*Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou **shalt not be put to shame**: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*

Isaiah 54:4-5

In short, they can search out our petty sins all they want. They can spy on our emails, follow our web surfing habits, document our Facebook posts, and track our credit card purchases. They can even use the cameras on satellites in outer space to follow our cars. **But it will do them no good.** In the end, **they will be brought down by their own words and actions.** And for our faithful service we will be given eternal life and exalted to serve the Most-High God *forever* (1 Peter 5:6-9, Rev 20:4-6). If we remain humble, sober (focused) and vigilant, our Heavenly Father will

indeed ‘exalt’ us so that we may serve Him *in righteousness*. It’s a promise! Let’s look at Psalm 64 again...

*7 But **God shall shoot at them with an arrow**; suddenly shall they be wounded.*

*8 **So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves**: all that see them shall flee away.*

Ps 64:7-8

Here again, David says *God will make sure the wicked get caught in the web of their own lies and deception*. And their downfall will be so great at that point, no one will stick around to defend them. And truly, we don’t have to wait for Jesus Christ’s return to see this. It does not matter if it’s a politician or someone you work with, habitual liars are always found out and anyone with any common-sense stops believing in what they say; they can’t be trusted.

9 And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.

*10 **The righteous shall be glad in the LORD**, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.*

Psalm 64:9-10

When our heavenly Father brings this ultimately to pass (at Jesus’ return), it will bring fear upon those who hate Him, while those who love Him will rejoice in His *long-promised justice*. Likewise, David’s son, Solomon, explained in the great book of Proverbs that the wicked will be caught in a trap of their own making...

*5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but **the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness**.*

*6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but **transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness**.*

Prov 11:5-6

And finally, in Psalm 37, we learn from David that the sword of the wicked will indeed “enter into their own heart”. As it is written...

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

*15 **Their sword shall enter into their own heart**, and their bows shall be broken.*

37:12-15

Of course, just as the ‘Sword of the Lord’ is His great Word of truth (Eph 6:17, Rev 1:16, 2:16, 19:15,21), in like manner the sword of the wicked is composed of their great, swelling words of

deception. But our heavenly Father assures us in this Psalm that “*their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken*”. In other words, **they’ll be judged and die by the weight of their own words and schemes against us.** They’ll pronounce their own sentences upon themselves. You see, it’s the deception they’ve used against us, and the judgment they’ve pronounced against us, *that is the very sword our heavenly Father will inevitably make sure is used against them.*

Now, some might say: well, this is all just ‘Old Testament’ stuff’. So, we should ask ourselves if Jesus Christ ever taught this Biblical principle of the wicked falling into their own traps, and pronouncing their own sentences upon themselves...? Indeed, He did. And quite forthrightly, too. In fact, in the parable of the householder and his vineyard, Christ explained this principle, in no uncertain terms, *directly to the enemy*. In Matthew 21, we see our Lord and Savior entering the very Temple itself, and speaking directly to the chief priests and the elders of the people. In other words, **He was speaking to the religious leaders who had been keeping the people captive to false religious doctrine and phony religious traditions, so they could milk the people dry of what little wealth or sustenance they might have had.** And after some banter with the religious leaders, Christ turned to them and set forth a parable about a householder who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country (Mth 21:33). Of course, this householder is representative of our heavenly Father. He created this earth, and He created His ‘vineyard’, Israel, and left His children in charge of it. Isaiah 5 makes this quite clear. But pretty quickly the enemies of our Lord – the children of Cain, who *hate*, loathe and despise Christ Jesus and serve only their father the devil – took over the entire vineyard, keeping its fruits for themselves (Mth 21:34-35). Isa 5:7 explains that *the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant*, which today basically constitutes the western Christian nations of these end days. And the husbandmen (the vineyard workers) are representative of the religious leaders who are *supposed* to “bear fruit” for the Lord by teaching His Word and converting the people’s hearts to believe in, and serve, our heavenly Father. **They’re supposed to be planting seeds of truth that lead the people directly to the Lord.**

But when our heavenly Father sent His servants (prophets and teachers) to collect the “fruit” (faithful worshippers) due Him, the religious leaders beat some of those servants, killed some, and stoned some. In other words, *the religious leaders wanted to keep all of the “fruit” brought forth by their religious ministries for themselves.* Does this sound familiar? It should because it goes on even today. So, rather than planting seeds of truth that would help bring God’s children back to *Him*, they instead plant seeds of deceptive doctrine **that kept the people steeped in empty church tradition.** [As Ecc 1:9 says, there’s nothing new under the sun. The things that happened back in the days Jesus gave this parable (and before then too) are the same things that are happening today]. The people, in turn, dedicated their spiritual lives (and financial wherewithal) to the temple and its religious leaders, *rather than to the Lord God and His Savior.* **The oldest trick in the religionists play book is to convince people that it’s their church traditions that save, and not the Lord Jesus Christ.**

So, the husbandmen (religious leaders) violently turned back all who approached them on God's behalf (Mth 21:36). *They wanted to keep the "fruits" of the vineyard for themselves.* And to do so, these religious hypocrites knew ***they needed to prevent the people from hearing the truth – the truth that religion can't save you, but God's Savior can.*** In other words, these husbandmen (religious leaders) were (and still are) robbing God of His inheritance, which is His children (Deut 32:9). That's what this entire flesh earth age is about, i.e., ***our Lord and Savior working to bring God's wayward children back into His family household.*** The religious leaders are *supposed* to be doing this. But instead, they choose to use lies and deception to keep the people coming to them with tithes and offerings that, while enriching the coffers of the religious leaders, could not possibly even come close to saving anyone on the Day of Judgment. Finally, our heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ Himself, to collect His rightful due (Mth 21:37). Do you think the husbandmen (religious leaders), seeing the Son coming, decided they'd better get their act together and start planting seeds of truth that would help bring God's children back to Him? Nope. There was no repentance among the husbandmen/religious leaders. They were making quite a financial killing teaching empty church doctrine in place of God's Word. And much like today, they very much enjoyed the prestige and social privilege their religious offices afforded them. So rather than repenting and doing right by the Lord God - teaching His Word *exactly* as it's written (1 Tim 6:14) - they conspired to kill God's very Son... the heir of His Kingdom, hoping to keep the religious 'gravy train' going for themselves (Mth 21:38-39). They arrested Christ Jesus on false charges, insisted that Pontius Pilate convict Him, and made Him carry that cross up the hill to Golgotha, outside the city of Jerusalem, where they had him hung in great agony until He died there. **Now, here's the clincher: Jesus Christ asks the religious leaders listening to His parable the following question...**

When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?
Mth 21:40

And the religious leaders, not yet realizing that He was talking about **them** in the parable, answered thusly...

*They say unto him, **He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.***
Mth 21:41

That's a description of our heavenly Father's wrath on His enemies, in a nutshell. And if you understand geographically where our Father's wrath strikes (Jerusalem), then you also know where the His enemies are largely headquartered even to this very day. But note who spoke of this destruction. **It was the religious leaders themselves, answering Christ's blunt question to them.** At the moment, the religious leaders did not realize He was speaking of them in the parable. **So they felt free to answer truthfully.** *But what Christ said next woke the religious leaders up to the fact that they'd just pronounced their own death sentences upon themselves.*

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? [He's quoting from Ps 118:22-23]

43 Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

44 **And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

Mth 21:42-44

As we've learned, Christ is that "stone" (our Rock of Ages, 1 Cor 10:4) that the builders (religious leaders of the people) rejected, and that is now destined to 'fall on them' and 'grind them into to powder'. They had Him killed on that cross at Calvary. But when He rose, He became the head of temple of God, which means Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. He will rule over all the earth and even heaven too (Mth 28:18-20). And yes, "*this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes*", as Ps 118:23 points out. But it was not so marvelous in the eyes of the false religious leaders, because **the sentence they pronounced with their own lips on the evil "husbandmen" of Christ's parable, had now become their own death sentence.** In short, if you choose to rob God of His rightful due, you will most certainly trigger His wrath in the process. And **our heavenly Father will bring forth your own words when it comes time to pronounce your sentence.**

Do you remember, in Mark 13, Christ's words to His disciples while sitting on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem? The disciples were pointing out the magnificence of the main temple and surrounding buildings. But Christ stated to them, "*Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*" In other words, at His second advent, the entire city (and its inhabitants) will be demolished. Indeed, in the original Greek, the phrase "*thrown down*" is translated from the Greek word *kataluo* (#2647), meaning "**completely demolished, disintegrated, dissolved.**" Those buildings will be **turned to sand**, which is to say, **ground to powder**. And that's because He (Jesus Christ) *IS the "stone"* that will destroy the false religious system created by His enemies to deprive our heavenly Father of the "fruit" due Him (2 Pt 3). ***Our heavenly Father does not like it when His children are deprived of His Word of truth, which would set them free of false religion and give them the understanding needed to return humbly, but triumphantly, to His eternal family household.***

As Christ said to the religious leaders at another time, "*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in... for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation...for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves...*" (excerpted from Mt. 23:13-15).

And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

Mth 21:45

It *finally* dawned on the Jewish religious leaders that He'd been speaking of them *all along*. So, they could easily judge rightly when the question was presented to them, as if it was speaking of *someone else*; but they *could not* rightly judge themselves. They're wise in the ways of deception, but not so bright when it comes to understanding our heavenly Father's Word. They had a very big 'beam' in their eye (Mth 7:1-5). As Jesus would later tell them, *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word* (John 8:43). Simply put, the truth is too much for them because it exposes them, leaving them 'naked and ashamed' before the whole world (John 3:19-21) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1049>]. And embracing the truth would have destroyed their stranglehold on the religious life of the people.

But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Mth 21:46

How very 'religious' of them. The Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill our Lord and Savior on the spot, right there in the temple of God, for what He said to them. But they feared the crowd that was standing there, listening to the conversation. ***So, they suffered the verbal humiliation they so richly deserved at Christ's lips, and plotted to destroy Him later.*** The point of examining this parable, of course, is **to show that Christ taught that His enemies would pronounce their own sentence upon themselves. In other words, they'd be trapped by their own words.** Indeed, their punishment for murdering Christ and trying to steal His kingdom for themselves, and on behalf of their father the devil, would be the very punishment they decreed with their own mouths upon the husbandmen in Christ's parable, *He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons*. As the prophet Obadiah also professes...

For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

Obadiah 1:15

God is going to treat His adversaries the same way they've treated His servants on this earth. *Their own words against us will convict them.* And this is largely because they have a very bad habit of **accusing others of doing the very same things they are doing**. Therefore, their own doings against us will be heaped upon them, even double, as the book of Revelations also attests to...

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

*2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.***

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Rev 18:1-11

Yes, the return of the *true* Jesus Christ will be a sad day for the wicked; yea, for all those who sell out their belief in the true Messiah (Jesus Christ) for a false Messiah (Satan) – who have sold out God’s righteous Laws for Satan’s wicked ‘beast’ system (which is based upon very evil laws) because they would not ‘wait’ on the true Christ, as Zeph 3:8 (yea, all of God’s Word) tells us. This is why Jesus said ‘*In your patience possess ye your souls*’ (Luke 21:19). So, indeed: *The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken* (Ps 9:15). There is no way the wicked will ultimately ‘get away’ with their wickedness, nor will the foolish people who love to hear their lies escape God’s wrath either. And while the wicked might seem to be ‘getting ahead’ right now, their time will come. And *we must remember that*.

These are not vain promises from God. Over and over again, history (both secular and Biblical) teaches us that wickedness does not pay in the end. While wicked people might *seem* to ‘get ahead’ *now*, they will get their ‘rewards’ *sooner or later*. We know from the parable Jesus gave us in Luke 16 that, when the wicked die, they are spiritually tormented in ‘hell’ while the righteous are given liberty and blessings in ‘Abraham’s bosom’ (i.e. heaven). And then, when Jesus returns, He will *both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God* (1 Cor 4:5). As Jesus Himself said in Mark 4:22: *For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad*. Eccl 12:13-14 also tells us: *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil...*

9 Wherefore we labour; that, whether present or absent [whether we are in the flesh or have died and gone to the other dimension], we may be accepted of him.

*10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; **that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

2 Cor 5:9-10

So, indeed, God is not mocked - what a man sows that shall he reap. The wicked will get exactly what they have coming to them. Our father is perfectly fair; He shows no partiality. He has no problem calling out the wicked and pushing them for it. Their judgment will be severe because of the works of their hands. But He does love to forgive us when we sincerely repent for our sins and turn from our wicked ways and thoughts. So, let us always remember...

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Gal 6:7-9

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.