

Part 1 – Where Do You Put Your Trust

In chapter thirty, part 1, we learned that it's important to guard our heart against getting a 'big head' when the Lord (YHWH) blesses us for obeying Him. It's a natural thing for our carnal mind (our heart) to think that we're really great when we experience success – such as David did when the Lord gave him 'victory after victory' when fighting Israel's enemies. David not only became king over *all* of Israel but he led Israel's army to conquer more territory than any other king, judge, or leader, had since the time of Joshua. And success like this simply has a way of causing us to get the 'big head'. Yet, it is at these times when we're most susceptible, spiritually, to falling away from our Heavenly Father - for our pride tends to swell, which is something that separates us from Him. As such, it is times like these that our Heavenly Father will chastise us to humble us and get us back on the 'right path' of humbly following Him - as He did for David when He caused him to be so sick he nearly died. And, just as David responded very well to the Lord's chastisement (it humbled him greatly and helped him to see his sins) so too should we honestly evaluate our heart and mind so see where we 'went wrong' when we're chastised. Pride is dangerous, after all. So much so that is what caused the destruction of the first earth age because Satan's pride corrupted him and he refused to repent for rebelling against the Lord (YHWH) and teaching others to do so as well. So, as the Lord taught us in Jer 9:24, if we want to glory in anything, we should glory in the fact that we understand and know *Him*, for He is full of *lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness*. So truly, to Him belongs *all* the glory, not to our self. We should *always* remember to glory, and trust, in the Giver of the gifts, not the gift itself, nor our own self. If we can remember to do this - or humble ourselves and repent quickly when we catch our pride beginning to swell - then we'll remain in good standing with our Heavenly Father. If not, He's always faithful to chastise us when we need it; and we should be thankful to Him for that, because *it's for our benefit*, and shows that He still loves us (Heb 12).

In part 2 we continued to see David cry (call out) to the Lord for healing from his sickness. And he pointed out that, if his flesh body died, he would not be able to praise him on earth anymore. So, David felt like his work on earth (for the Lord, YHWH) was not done yet. And he was right, for the Lord (YHWH) used him to organize the Israelite government, army, and priesthood before his son, Solomon took over the kingdom. And the Holy Spirit also gave David (who was a prophet of the Lord, Acts 2) the patterns for the permanent Temple that Solomon was to build. So, David also got the materials ready and even donated a lot to the building materials out of his own wealth. So, we see a vital truth in David's sincere supplications for the Lord to heal him; our Heavenly Father won't let us die before our time, *if* we are faithful servants of His, like David was. And while our job is not to build any physical Temple (or buildings) for our Heavenly Father – our job is to help the *spiritual* Temple of the Lord to grown – which is the many membered Body of Jesus Christ. That's why it's so important to use our gift(s) and strive to plant seeds as the opportunities arise. Even simply doing what right is a 'seed' of truth in itself, for when we do what's right in our life, that shines the Light of Jesus Christ to others and gives them an opportunity to see *why* they should believe in (and serve) Jesus Christ. David also spoke of the joy he felt after the Lord finally healed him and he thus promised to continue to praise our Heavenly Father and not be silent to give Him the thanks and praise He so richly deserves. As

such, David did not keep this intimate Psalm (where he confesses his own sin of pride) a secret. He turned it over to the ‘Chief Musician’ (which is the subtitle of this Psalm) – who is Jesus Christ - because He is the ‘one who has the victory’ as well as the ‘giver of the victory’ (which is what the ‘Chief Musician’ means) and therefore David made this Psalm *public* for all of Israel to study and learn from. So, even today we should remember the vital lesson to guard our heart from pride, especially during the ‘good times’ when the Lord blesses us for our obedience to Him. Because that’s the time when our pride most easily swells and therefore, that’s when we are most easy to be tempted into trusting in our self, instead of our Heavenly Father.

We now move onto a Psalm that is written ‘in view of’ Psalm 20, which was a Psalm that spoke of the ‘time of trouble’ *and* of the atonement we can obtain (even during that time) when we trust, *and* obey, our Heavenly Father (through faith in Jesus Christ). To those living back in David’s day, this ‘atonement’ came when they trusted in what the blood sacrifices *signified*, which is that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) *would come*. But to us today, of course, our atonement comes from believing Jesus Christ *has already come* and that His blood was shed, *once and for all times* (Heb 10:10), which *is all we need* to be ‘saved’ spiritually, and even physically, so long as we still have ‘work’ to do for the Lord, Jesus Christ. And this will be important to remember for the next two Psalms - for Psalms 32 and 33 also are written ‘in view of’ Psalms 20 as well. Of course, this makes these Psalms vitally important for us to remember, because we too are facing ‘times of trouble’. Not only *now* (as there are *many* troubles in the world right now) but we will soon experience THE ‘time of trouble’, which Jesus warned us about in Matt 24:21- which will be so great of a tribulation that there has *never* been so great a tribulation in the history of the world, nor will there ever be again.

Why is the coming ‘time of trouble’ so much worse than ever before (or that ever will be)? Because it’s what is called the ‘great tribulation’ – which is when Satan (the Devil) himself (and his fallen angels) are cast to the earth. And when they are here, they’ll be calming to be ‘God and his angels’ who have come to ‘save’ the world from all our troubles. However, it’ll really be Satan and his angels *disguised* as ministers of righteousness (as 2 Cor 10:13-15 and 2 Thess 2 warns us). And because most of the world will worship Satan, and his wicked ‘beast’ governing system (including his fallen angels), those of us who *don’t* worship Satan (refuse the ‘mark’ of the beast) will be less popular than a ‘hair in a biscuit’, so to speak. In other words, the way David feels in this Psalm – as well as how he is treated – is how we too will be treated, and how we *could* feel, *if* we allow ourselves to. But, as Paul tells us in 1 Cor 10:11, these things are written for our examples, so we can learn how to deal with similar things in our life *without fear, doubts or anxieties*. And let’s also remember that David was a prophet (Acts 2), which again tells us that these Psalms also prophesy of what *is yet to come* (and happen to) Jesus Christ’s faithful servants in these ‘times of trouble’ – which are these ‘latter days’ we now live in...

Psalm 31

A Psalm of David.

In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

So, David begins this Psalm by declaring his fervent trust in the Lord (YHWH). And what that means is that David strove to spiritually ‘flee’ to Him for refuge from the inner turmoil of fear, anxieties, worry and stresses that plagued him (Ps 27). While we’re not told exactly what time period this Psalm was written (or the next two Psalms) it’s obviously a very difficult time for him. And there were *many* difficult times throughout David’s life. Especially during his early years when the king of Israel, Saul, sought to kill him. And it was for no fault, or sin, of David’s. Saul was simply jealous of David’s success in warfare *and* he also (rightly) suspected that David was the one the Lord had given the kingdom (of Israel) to, as the prophet Samuel had told him the Lord would do, in 1 Sam 13:14. As such, for *over a decade* David had to take refuge in the wilderness, and even in enemy (Philistine) territories at times, *just to keep from being killed* because Saul kept taking his armies out to the wilderness seeking David and trying to kill him. As such – because the king (Saul) of Israel spent *so much* time trying to find, and kill, David (along with those other so called ‘rebels’ who had gone to David in the wilderness, due to having grievances with Saul) - many in Israel thought David really was a legitimate rebel and wanted nothing to do with him.

Therefore, studying this Psalm, keeping David’s history in mind, is quite helpful. For we can see *why* he will say some of the things he does and understand his emotions. And of course, we can learn from them too. As Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:16-17: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* Indeed, it is. And although David was a shepherd in his youth, his stand against Goliath shows he was not ignorant of God’s Word. He believed in it *and acted upon it*, when no one else in Israel’s army would. So, this one verse in the book of Timothy reminds us how important it is to *know* God’s Word – because unless we know His Word, *we don’t know Him*. And how can we trust in someone we don’t know? *What* are we to trust in? His promises. *How* can we trust in His promises (that He’s faithful to reward the righteous and punish the wicked) *if we don’t know them*? Or, *how* can we make sure we’re doing what we need to in order to obtain His promises if we don’t study His Word? If we’re Biblically ignorant then we simply cannot truly trust our Heavenly Father. For, not only do we not know His promises but we don’t really know to obey them nor even that He is *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth* (Ex 34:6).

As we study the history of the Bible, the Lord (YHWH) proves Himself – over and over again – to be *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (145:17) and *that’s* why David puts his trust in the Lord (YHWH)... and begs Him to never let him be ‘ashamed’ because David was truly trying to do what was right. The word ‘ashamed’ here can mean to be ashamed, but it can also mean to be *disappointed* or *delayed* (#954) - and ‘disappointed’ is probably a better translation here because David is asking for the Lord’s help, and he doesn’t want to be disappointed, by *not* getting helped from the Lord (YHWH). That’s why he then asks the Lord (YHWH) to ‘deliver’ him ‘in His righteousness’, which means that David knew our Heavenly Father is always just and fair. And David also knew God’s promise to deliver those who love, fear (revere) and obey Him (Deut 7:16-26, 26:16-19, 3:9-10, etc.). In other words, David is basically saying that, he knew the Lord (YHWH) told Israel that *if* we trust and obey Him, that

He'll *always* deliver us from our enemies. So, he is 'claiming' those promises (of deliverance and safety) by telling the Lord that he has trusted in Him and asks that he won't be disappointed for trusting in the Lord *because* the Lord is *always* right and fair to help those who are truly trying to do what's right, which David sincerely felt like he was.

But, it's also important to understand *who* will be ashamed and disappointed. In Mth 7:21-23, Jesus warned us that not everyone who claims to follow Him will be accepted into the kingdom of Heaven - which means not all who claim to be Christians will be given eternal life, nor allowed to serve in His kingdom. And the reason is simply because *they didn't obey Him*; instead, they were 'workers of iniquity' who deceived their own soul into thinking they were righteous when they were really rebelling against the Lord (YHHV) and refusing to hear the guidance of the Holy Spirit. So, when we are in 'times of trouble', no matter when that is, we must always continue to 'consider our ways' and see if there be any errors in them and ask the Lord for help with this. If we're sincere, the Holy Spirit will help us see our sins as we diligently, and sincerely, study His Word. As Heb 4:12 says, *the word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*. So, the Holy Spirit will help us see what we need to change. And if we are pleasing to our Heavenly Father – if we've repented and are working to change our sins and obey Him sincerely – then He will indeed deliver us. But it's always going to be on His timeline, and in the way which He shall choose. And that should be ok with us *if* we truly trust in Him. Because He's much wiser, and has more foresight, than we do. Jesus Christ is our Shepherd and we are to *follow Him*... not try and tell Him what path *we think* we should be going on!

Psalms 31

2 Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.

So, David was apparently in a very difficult position at this point in time; so much so that he needed help *quickly*. The word '**speedily**' here means '*a hurry*' or '*promptly*' (#4120). This is quite understandable when we recall how many times David was literally chased by Saul's enemies. Yet, David knew that the Lord (YHVH) *alone* could help Him. It's no surprise then, that our Heavenly Father *always* helped David find a physical place to hide when he really needed it. But, that's because David spiritually 'fled' to the Lord (YHVH) for help, and not to false gods or idols. And that's also why David calls upon the Lord (YHVH) to be a 'strong rock' for him - also a 'house of defense' – to save him. The word '**strong**' here means '*a fortified place*' or even '*a defense*' (#4581), and of course, David has many times used the word 'Rock' to refer to the security of trusting in our Heavenly Father (Ps 18:2,31,46, 27:5, 28:1). And he got this from Deut 32:4, which tells us that the Lord (YHVH) *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*. That's why He's the *only* one who can save us – physically and spiritually – in *any* of our times of trouble. His truth is eternal (like a strong Rock) and trusting in Him will *always* save us. And, like David, there will likely be times in our life when we need help quickly. These are times not to be afraid

but to discipline our heart (our carnal mind, which wants to be afraid) to trust in Him, because fear causes us to do things that are not right. Fear causes us to forget the instructions of the Word of God and follow our carnal (animalistic) nature. So, in times we need help quickly, we must be ever disciplined to truly trust in the Lord, just as David did – for only when we trust in our Heavenly Father (through Jesus Christ) will he help us. Never forget that, when you serve Jesus Christ, there is an ‘angel’ in heaven watching over you (Ps 91:11) who has the ‘face’ (or attention) of God at all times. And they (your ‘guardian’ angel) can get help very quickly when you truly need it (Mth 18:10). Ps 91:12 also promises that the angels in heaven can also *bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone*. Case in point, consider the time when the Syrian king sent a whole army to arrest Elisha (because he had been telling the king of Israel all the Syrian king’s military plans). When Elisha’s servant saw the army, he nearly freaked out and asked Elisha what they were going to do. But, Elisha calmly told him not to be afraid because there were many more ‘with them’ than they that were in the Syrian army. Elisha then asked God to open the eyes of the servant so he could see the army *that was right above them...*

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15-17

These ‘horses and chariots of fire’ were God’s mighty army; the same ones we’ve learned about back in chapters 18 and 29 in the Psalms. They were (and still are) God’s mighty flying vehicles and were far more superior to the flesh army the Syrian army sent to arrest Elisha. But, as it turned out, they were not even needed. For Elisha simply asked God to blind the Syrian army while he then led them straight into the capital of Israel, where Israel’s army then surrounded them. And no, the Syrian army were not killed off. Instead, Elisha commanded they be given food and water and sent home. Although this act of graciousness did not stop the Syrians from later fighting Israel’s army, it did stop stray bands of the army from harassing (killing and stealing from) Israel’s farmers, as they had been doing. The point is that we have to learn to trust in our Heavenly Father, even at times we need help very quickly. We cannot let fear enter our heart. We must *keep* trusting in Him (even when help does not come as quickly as we’d like it to) because that trust (along with repentance) is the *only* thing that ‘secures’ His help in our times of trouble, not matter how great that trouble is.

Psalm 31

3 For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

David again reiterates that the Lord is His Rock and adds that He is his ‘fortress’, meaning his protection. David knew that the Lord was the one who had helped him find places to flee to in the wilderness and could *continue* to help Him find safe places to hid from Saul’s army (or from anyone else who sought him). What’s interesting about this verse is that David now asks the Lord to ‘lead’ and ‘guide’ him ‘for thy name’s sake’. Remember what we learned back a few chapters?

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he **leadeth** me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
4 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 23:1-4

It is for His holy name's sake that the Lord helps all those who are oppressed (Ps 103:6). That means, *it's in His holy character* to help those who are oppressed. Indeed, He *delights* helping those who love, and serve, Him when they are oppressed by the wicked. Our Heavenly Father doesn't like it when His children (and servants) are oppressed any more than we like our children, or employees, to be harmed. Again, David really needed some guidance on where to find a place to flee. Likely, he was referring to a physical place of safety but this also very much applies to us spiritually. For how often today are we pressured by ungodly people to sin against the Lord (YHVH) in our own life? Probably every day. And like David, we need to learn how to trust in the Lord (YHVH) to guide us how to act (or react) to those situations. This is the blessing that the Holy Spirit being *within us* gives us. He *will* place that understanding of what to do (or not to do) and what to say (or what not to say) in our mind, and give us the internal strength we need to do (or not to do) or to say (or not to say) it. This is why, back in Ps 27:14, David told us to: Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. We 'wait' on the Lord (YHVH) by binding our soul to His (#6960), not by doing nothing. When you are in a difficult situation in life, strive hard to remember the Word of God which you have been studying. For understanding it gives us the wisdom we need to make it through the hard times, as Proverbs also tells us...

*10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
11 **Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:**
12 **To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;**
13 *Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*
14 *Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*
Prov 2:10-14*

And, in John 16:13, Jesus also said that *when he, **the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* Romans also says...

*24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.
26 **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.***

*27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, **because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Rom 8:24-28

So, even when we don't know what to do, if we stop our heart from being afraid and strive to think of where in God's Word we're told how to handle such a situation - then the Holy Spirit *will* help us, and give us the understanding of what we should do, as well as the courage to do it. It's not easy to stand up to others when they are trying to get you to do something that's wrong; nor was it easy for David to find a place in the wilderness where Saul's army could not find them. Sometimes Saul even went into the *same cave* David was hiding in, but the Lord prevented Saul from finding him. Yet, even at that time, David still controlled himself from doing evil and would not kill Saul, even though he had the opportunity. After all, doing so would only prove to the rest of Israel he was a rebel, but not doing so showed Saul that David truly was *not* seeking to rebel against him, nor to kill him... which David pointed out to Saul after he left the cave (1 Salm 24). So, in times when we are most pressured to do what is wrong, that's when we must spiritually flee to our Father's Word, and strive *hard* to remember what it says about the situation, we're in. When we do so, the Holy Spirit will always help us because, to reiterate, it *pleases* the Lord *greatly* to help those who love, obey and serve Him.

Psalms 31

4 Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.

David now explains *why* he needed help quickly. Someone(s) had '**privily**' laid a 'net' for him. This means they did so by *covert*, or *hidden*, means (#2934). Of course, this is *always* how the wicked work. They don't like their wicked deeds to be known, because then they could not succeed in oppressing the innocent and vulnerable people in society (John 3:19-21). The word '*net*' here is *a net that's used to catch animals* (#7568), so it's an analogy used to explain the kinds of traps that people use to 'trip us up'. Or, in physical warfare, it's a trap used to get the enemy into a dangerous situation so they can be easily overcome. This too also applies spiritually. Yet, God's wisdom will help us avoid this. As the Proverbs tells us...

*10 My son, **if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.***

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

*15 My son, **walk not thou in the way with them;** refrain thy foot from their path:*

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

*17 **Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.***

18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Prov 1:10-19

Isa 59:3-7 lays out a pretty good description of this as well. Whether it was Saul trying to kill David and his followers in the wilderness or someone(s) persecuting you today, the wicked won't stoop to any 'low' trick to get to you. And you can rest assured, Satan is this way too (2 Tim 2:26). That's why we should be very guarded when people flatter us, because most always they do not have good intentions. As Prov 29:5 warns, *a man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet*. And even if their intentions are good, Satan will be nearby trying to use that moment to cause your pride to swell... and that's what you have to be on guard for because pride is a big 'net' (snare) for our carnal mind, so we've got to be on guard for it. 1 Tim 6:6-12 also warns us that the 'love of money' is another big 'net', for coveting is idolatry (Col 3:5) as is lust (2 Pt 2:18, James 1:14-15, 1 John 2:16). But, if we stay focused on our Heavenly Father (the Word of God) then the Holy Spirit will help us to see the 'nets' and show us a way out of it. But, as Paul aptly reminds us...

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Cor 10:6-14

Paul lays out some of the most important 'nets' (snares) we need to look out for: idolatry (which is covetousness, Col 3:5), fornication, tempting Christ and murmuring (complaining). When you study the book of Numbers, you can see how much the children of Israel upset our Heavenly Father when they were in the wilderness, despite how wonderfully He cared for them. Paul points out that their example (along with all of the Bible) are written down as 'examples' of what we should (or should not) do. They are given to us specifically for our admonition – so we can know what 'nets' to be on guard for – and avoid them! But, importantly, verse 13 also gives us a grand promise: that our Heavenly Father (through His Word and Holy Spirit) is faithful to keep us from being tempted (or tested) above that which we are able to handle – He'll always give

(show us) a way to ‘escape’ (leave it) so we can ‘bear’ (meaning, endure it, #5297). And it’s critical we learn to endure the hard times, because they are coming – and they are only going to get worse, especially *spiritually*. As Jesus said in Mark 13:13: *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but **he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*** The word ‘endure’ here means, figuratively, *to undergo*, i.e. *bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere* (#5278). But it can also mean ‘*to stay under*’ or *remain* (even behind), and this means we must stay under the blood of Jesus Christ, through our faith in Him, if we want to be able to endure the ‘times of trouble’. Just as David trusted in the Lord, even when he really needed help quickly, so too must we learn to do. As Paul advised his protégé, Timothy...

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Tim 2:3-4

Paul’s advice to Timothy still resounds with us today. We must learn to endure hardness, for the sake of serving Jesus Christ, simply because *we’re on enemy ground*. Jesus Christ has not yet returned to take control over all the earth and heaven – so that means Satan still controls the world (Eph 2:2) ... which is why we should not ‘**entangleth**’ ourself with it! This means we should not *entwine* (or *involve with*) our heart (desires, emotions, intention, motivations) or mind (though process) with things of this world (#1707). While we have to live in the world, we should not desire ‘things’ of this world, like having *lots* of money, power and/or prestige. And, while it’s certainly ok to have money (we have to live in the world, after all), Prov 23:4 wisely tells us *not* to labor just to be rich, for *this wisdom* (desiring to be rich instead of happy with what we have, as Paul tells us in 1 Tim 6) *is carnal*. James 3:15 also tells us it’s earthly, sensual, *and devilish*. James also tells us later on, that we should learn to be happy when we have to endure the hard times and learn from our examples from the Bible, such as Job ,and so many more (James 5:10-11). In 1 Peter 2:19-25, Peter also tells us how we should patiently endure hard times and then later on wrote...

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

*13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

*14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but **on your part he is glorified.***

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

*16 **Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.***

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

*19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God **commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.***

1 Peter 4:12-19

So, just as David – and so many other faithful men and women in the Bible (Heb 11) – so too should we learn to ‘commit’ our soul to the Lord (YHVH) (which we’ll learn more in the next verse) by striving to do what’s right, while loving, praising and serving Him regardless of how the wicked try to derail us from taking forth the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world ever so in need of it...

*6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for **because of these things** cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

*8 For ye were sometimes darkness, **but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:***

*9(**For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;**)*

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

*13 **But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.***

*14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, **and Christ shall give thee light.***

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

*16 **Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***

*17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.***

Eph 5:6-17

We’ll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.