

Part 3 – Reproach and Slanders

In part 2 we learned that David ‘committed’ his spirit into the hands of the Lord (YHVH) by *trusting* Him with *all* his heart, mind and soul. David did not waver from his faith in the Lord nor did he ever apostatize and worship other gods or idols. And he also truly believed in the coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ), which is what redeemed his soul (as well as ours) because Jesus Christ’s blood shed atones for the sins of *all* mankind *once and for all* (Heb 10:10). When we truly trust in our Heavenly Father (and the Messiah He sent to save us, Jesus Christ) we indeed ‘deposit’ our soul into the care (hands) of the one and only true God - who is the *only* One who can keep our soul safe from spiritual death as well as the spiritual destroyer, Satan. This means not only can He free us (and keep us safe from) Satan’s methods of deceiving us into sinning willfully and habitually (rebellious against God), but He also gives us the truth we need to keep us safe from deception so we can live forever. This is why David went on to say that he hated those who regard (protect and guard) lying vanities, which can even mean false gods and idols; meaning, all things that are evil. And we learned it is a righteous thing for us to hate evil too. Because if we don’t hate evil (and refuse to participate in it) then we love evil. And that means we cannot obtain eternal life because those who love evil also love Satan – the one who is rebelling against God and causing His children to be fooled into sinning, which destroys their own soul. So, if you love evil (Satan) you cannot love God (righteousness). And if you don’t love God, you will refuse the truth (including the Messiah, Jesus Christ) – which also means you cannot have eternal life, because the *only* way we can have eternal life is by knowing and understanding the *one and only true* God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6, 17:3). This is why it’s ever so important to trust in the Lord (God’s Word) and His Holy Spirit, for *that’s* what gives us the truth (knowledge of who God and Jesus Christ is), which in turn gives us eternal life. Now, with these truths firmly in our mind, let’s continue to study this Psalm 31...

Psalm 31

7 I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

Because David committed his soul into the hands of the Lord (YHVH), by trusting in Him completely, David has much to be glad about (rejoice in, #1523). For when we receive the Lord’s mercy (kindness, #2617) we are *not* getting what we do deserve, meaning punishment for our sins. As Ps 103:10 states, when we ‘fear His name’ (fear to do evil by humbling repenting when we sin and strive to obey Him) then He does not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities. And that’s a lot to be glad about (rejoice) because we all fall short and sin at times, even when we try not to. But David knew that the Lord (YHVH) saw (#7200, considered) his troubles (#6040 misery) and knew (#3045, by observing) his adversities (#6869, troubles from his opponents) and was always faithful to help David when he needed it. And even though help from the Lord sometimes takes longer than we like it, He does always help us as long as we continue to trust and obey Him the best we can, sincerely. As Ps 11:4 said, *the LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men*. And in Jer 17:10 the Lord further states that He searches the heart (our desires, emotions,

intentions and motivations) and tries our reins (thought of our mind), *even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings*. So, the Lord (YHVH) not only knew how sincere David's heart and mind was but He also very well knew what the wicked people (who were oppressing David) were up to as well. As such, the Lord continued to show David kindness because he revered Him, trusted in Him and sincerely tried to do what is right. And that's what we must remember to do too, if we want to obtain His mercy (not getting the punishments we deserve) as well as His grace (getting what we don't deserve, such as blessings – even the blessing of peace of mind from His Holy Spirit).

Psalms 31

8 And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.

David now declares that the Lord did not 'shut him up' into the hands of the enemy but instead set his feet in a large room... but what does this mean? 'Dissecting' God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) here really helps, for when we look up the words 'shut me up' in the Strong's Concordance, we see they are all one Hebrew Word that means - not only to 'shut up' - but, figuratively, it also means *to surrender* (#5462). In other words, the Lord (YHVH) didn't ever allow David to be overcome by the enemy. The Lord did not 'surrender' David to the wicked people who oppressed him and that's because David always stayed loyal to Him. He only gives people over to their enemies when they are sinning and won't repent, as Scriptures such as Deut 32:30, Judges 3:8, 4:2, 10:7, 1 Sam 12:9 and more explain. But one place in Judges summarizes this really well...

11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim [Satan]:

12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. [which the Lord, through Moses, warned them not to do!]

13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroath.

14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

Judg 2:11-19

This was the way it went with the children of Israel for most of their time in the Promise Land. They only obeyed the Lord when they had a good leader, such as Moses, Joshua, the Judges and the few good kings like David. And the only reason the Lord delivered them is when they cried out to Him for help *and* were willing to repent and turn back to Him. And while, it did grieve our Heavenly Father to see His children being oppressed, He allowed this *because He truly loved them*. And they *needed* to be chastised for their sins. As Heb 12 tells us, our Heavenly Father chastises us because He loves us, because doing so helps to bring us back to Him so that we learn to do right instead of evil. So, when David says the Lord didn't 'shut him up' to the hand of the enemy, he's essentially saying that the Lord didn't allow him to fail in warfare. And this, again, is because David wholeheartedly served Him. And Israel was blessed immensely for David's love, and loyalty, to the Lord (YHVH;) for, through David, the Lord delivered Israel from their long time enemies, especially the worst of them (at that time) the Philistines.

But what does David mean when he said that the Lord *set my feet in a large room*? The words 'large room' is one Hebrew word that means '*enlargement*', either literally (an open space, usually in a good sense), or figuratively (as in *liberty*) (#4800). Ps 118:5 uses a similar term (with the same Hebrew word, #4800) when the Psalmist says: *I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place*. The *Companion Bible* has a note on Ps 118:5 that helps in understanding the term 'large room' or 'large place', explaining that it would be better rendered as 'with deliverance', which makes much more sense. In other words, David was basically saying that when he was "in between a 'rock and a hard place'" then the Lord delivered Him by setting him in an 'open space'. Which again means, He delivered him. And He did so, *time and time again*, as the history of David's military successes shows. And even when David decided to take refuge with one of the kings of the Philistines (because Saul kept trying to kill him and would not stop) David was still delivered and blessed by God. For, while David told king Achish that he was attacking Israel, he was *really* attacking the Philistines (because he didn't want to harm his own people). But, because David killed off all the people after his raids, the king of the Philistines never got wise of it! (1 Sam 27) One can understand then, how later when David became king of Israel, the Philistines attacked Israel with fervor. However, the Lord gave David the victory every time and that's why he says that the Lord didn't shut him up into the hand of the enemy but set his feet in a large place. It simply means that the Lord did not allow the enemy to have victory over David; instead, He continued to give David victory in war.

And this is important for us to understand, and remember, because (as 1 Cor 10:11 says) the history given in the Bible are examples (ensamples) for us to learn from. And while our warfare is not carnal like David's so often was, we are in a very 'hot' spiritual battle with Satan and his followers. As Eph 6:12 reminds us, *we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual*

wickedness in high places. That's why we are to put on all the 'Gospel Armor' (truth, righteousness, the Gospel, salvation, faith and the Word of God) so we can fight that spiritual battle well (as the rest of Eph 6 tells us). The life of Jesus Christ, and that of the apostles as well, also shows us how this spiritual battle is fought. Hard hearted and rebellious Jewish leaders did all they could to stop the truth (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) from being spread to the people. They not only got Jesus Christ killed but some of the apostles (such as Stephen, Acts 7) killed as well. And they persecuted the rest with ferocity, simply because they were telling the truth of what God's Word really says! Some things never change (Ecc 1:9). Still today, people who correctly teach (and share with seed planting) are also attacked and persecuted simply for sharing the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. And it's only going to get worse, as the Scriptures warn us (2 Thess 2, Rev 13, etc.). So, we must remember how Jesus Christ and the apostles handled themselves. They taught the truth regardless of how they were persecuted.

But also (and very importantly), they did not try to cause insurrections (although that's often what they were accused of) but rather, they simply *did not comply with evil*. Jesus Christ was so dang smart (and wise) He outwitted the hard-hearted Jews time and time again with His ever so wise (yet very sharp) words. And the few times they did try to actually kill Him, the Lord helped Him avoid it. Only when it was His time to die, did He submit to being captured. And the disciples handled themselves very wisely too, obviously because they had the Holy Spirit within them. And while some of them were killed (because it was their time to die), many others were spared because they still had more work to do. But, when they were arrested, they often used that opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Paul was really good at this). And, as Peter and John said at one point in time - after they were arrested, threatened and told not to speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ anymore - *Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard* (Acts 4:19-20). In other words, when man tried to stop them from doing what God had commission them to do, *they simply did not comply*. And they also allowed the Holy Spirit to, not only *work through them* (by performing miracles), but also to *speak through them so that the truth could be manifested, as was God's will*. And this is important for us to remember as well; for the Lord *still* wants the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be shared with the world. In fact, that's something that must happen before the true Jesus Christ returns. As Jesus Himself said in Matt 24:14: *this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come*. And while the Gospel is being shared worldwide (through the blessing of technology) right now, in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus explained how the Gospel will be shared (worldwide) in a different way...

10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

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.

Mark 13:10-13

What Jesus is referring to here is the second time the ‘cloven’ tongue will be given to His servants. In Acts 2, we learn how, when the Holy Spirit was first given to the apostles, the Lord spoke through them with a language (the ‘cloven tongue’) that *everyone* listening could understand *in their ‘mother tongue’*, no matter where they were from. The purpose of this, was so that the ‘wonderful works of God’ (i.e. the Gospel of Jesus Christ) could be *clearly communicated to all people without any* language barriers that translating often brings. So, we should remember, even when we feel like we’re in between a ‘rock and a hard place’ our Heavenly Father will also set our feet in a ‘large room’ by delivering us so we can continue to serve Him. And this applies even to the ‘time of tribulation’ that will be worse than anything the world had ever seen. This ‘time of trouble’ of course, is when Satan is cast out of heaven, with his fallen angels (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2) to deceive the world into worshiping him and his ‘beast’ system. The spiritual battle will be very ‘hot’ at that time and telling the truth will truly be a crime! Yet, if we stay faithful to our Heavenly Father and follow our Shepherd, Jesus Christ, He will teach us how to continue to serve Him during those trying days, which thankfully have been shortened (Mth 24:22, Mk 13:20, Rev 9:5,10).

But, just as the Lord made sure the Gospel of Jesus Christ was taken forth after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (by giving His Holy Spirit to His apostles who were commissioned to take His Word to the world, Mth 28:18-20), so too will He again make sure His Word is shared with the world through His faithful servants. Not only the two witnesses (Rev 11) but also many more, as Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19 tell us. And while it’s likely that not all of the people sealed for this time (Rev 7) will be delivered up to the antichrist (Satan), that doesn’t mean there won’t be other times when the Holy Spirit wants to speak through us on a ‘smaller scale’ to local communities. So, no matter what the Lord has in store for us, we should continue to bind our soul to His (through consistent studying, meditating (thinking) on His Word and keeping our heart and mind clean) so we can be ready for Him to use us however He wants to. We are, after all, *His* servants and we should strive to serve Him however He chooses us to do so. Let’s also remember the promises in His Word to save those who are faithful to Him, such as we find in the great Psalm 37, especially in verses 32-33 and 39-40...

Psalm 31

9 Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly.

10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

David again asks for the Lord’s mercy (kindness), which is not giving us what we deserve (punishment for our sins). And we too can ask this if we keep examining our soul (1 Cor 11:28, 2 Cor 13:5) to see what we need to repent and change. And it’s also good to ask the Lord for help

in seeing what you need to change as well (Ps 139:23-24, 26:2, 19:12-14). And David again says how he's in 'trouble', which means in *misery* or *depression* (#6040). His soul was very troubled by what was happening to him. So much so that he says his 'eye' was consumed with grief, even down to his 'soul and belly'. The *Companion Bible* points out that this term 'belly' is a figure of speech (Synecdoche – of part – apx 6) that means his 'body'. So, David's inner pain was affecting even his flesh body, which can happen when we are consumed with worries, fears and anxieties. The word 'iniquity' in verse 10 means perversity or evil (#5771) but the *Companion Bible* says this should have been rendered as 'humiliation' (apx 22 i.v.). And we can understand this when we remember how David was treated as an outlaw, or rebel, by king Saul. David was treated as though he had committed a great iniquity (rebelling against the king of Israel), even though he truly had not. Even Saul's son, Jonathan (who was David's best friend) knew that David had done his father (nor Israel) no harm, nor was he seeking to do him any harm (1 Sam 20). However, many others in Israel did not realize this. Many thought that, since Saul was using precious time, and resources, to chase David in the wilderness (for *over a decade*) that David was an 'enemy of the state'. They simply didn't realize that Saul had lost his mind and was plagued by evil spirits (1 Sam 18:10, 19:9,). But, many in Saul's inner circle, even his son, realized this (1 Sam 16:14-16). But this trying time was really hard for David, truly. So much so that his inner turmoil impacted his flesh body too. However, *it was because of these hard times that David learned to 'cheer' himself up by trusting in the Lord*. We would be wise to do likewise when we 'hard times' come our way.

Psalms 31

11 I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

Now we see why David was so upset. And this verse helps us to draw the conclusion that this Psalm was likely written during the times when he was being persecuted by Saul and the Israelite army. For, David's being on the run from Saul (the king of Israel) caused David's neighbors and acquaintances to fear to be around him because he was considered a traitor by the king of Israel. 1 Sam 23:19-20 tells us that the Ziphites even ratted David's hiding place out to Saul and asked him to come and 'get' David and the men who were with him. This is despite the fact that David had been actively fighting against the Philistines to protect Israelites (1 Sam 23:1-5). And David continued to do so the entire time he was 'on the run' from Saul, even when he was in Gath being protected by the Philistine king, Achish (1 Sam 21:10-15). So, David *never* turned against his nation (or king Saul). Instead, he valiantly fought *against* Israel's enemies (Philistines) and yet many of the people did not appreciate this. They were more afraid of what Saul (the king of Israel) would do to them if they helped David. After all, Saul had a bunch of **priests killed** after they helped David, even though they didn't know Saul considered David a traitor at the time! (1 Sam 22).

So, at this time, it was dangerous to be a 'friend' of David and that's what pained David so much. Yet, it's important to remember that the Lord still blessed all of David's military adventures against Israel's enemies. This is a large reason that David's trust in the Lord grew so much

during that time. Not only did the Lord spare David from Saul's hand, time and time again, but He also gave David the victory when fighting Israel's enemies, the Philistines, who were renown to be very ferocious fighters back then. And what that should teach us is that, when we learn to trust our Heavenly Father during the hard times, *it's then that we grow spiritually mature the most*. It was these hard times that developed David into a loyal servant of the Lord (YHVH), just as it did for Joseph many years earlier when he was sold into Egyptian slavery *by his own brothers*. Joseph was kind of an arrogant young man before that. And naive, insomuch that he foolishly told his brothers dreams that elevated himself and degraded them (even though the dreams did come from God). And that only fueled their brother's envy and hate for him. But, Joseph remained faithful and trusting in the Lord despite being in captivity; and eventually, the Lord rose him up to be the next in command to Pharaoh himself (Gen 37-41). So, we should keep in mind, that despite the 'hard times' we have to go through, the Lord will *always* help us through them (as He did for others such as David and Joseph, etc.) when we continue to trust in Him, stay humble and obedient to Him. As James reminds us...

2 My brethren, ***count it all joy*** when ye fall into divers temptations; [#3986 testing's, adversities]
3 Knowing this, that ***the trying of your faith worketh patience***.
4 But let patience have her perfect work, ***that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing***.
James 1:2-4

The word 'perfect' here means 'complete' or 'completeness' in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc. (#5046). In other words, if we bravely endure the 'hard times', and learn to trust and obey our Heavenly Father through them, they will 'mold us' into a faithful, and spiritually mature, servant for the Lord. After all, as we learned in the last chapter (30), the times we're *most* likely to fall away to false gods and idols is during the 'good times' as the Lord warned Israel in the 'song of Moses'...

9 For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.
10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.
11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:
12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.
13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;
14 Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.
15 ***But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.***
16 *They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.*

17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

19 And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

Deut 32:9-19

The term ‘Jeshurun’ in verse 15 is a ‘nickname’ for Israel, given to them by God Himself, to refer to them during times when they were (and still are) extremely happy (due to the ‘good times’) and, consequently, fall away to false gods and idols. Jeshurun in the Hebrew is #3484 and means ‘upright’ as a symbolical name for Israel, not because they were upright. It comes from #3474, which is a prim root that means, figuratively, to be (causatively, to make) *right, pleasant* or *prosperous*. This ‘nickname’ is also used in Deut 33:26, when it’s written that *there is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky*. And what makes this so interesting is that, even back in Moses’ day, the Lord (YHWH) was known to ‘ride’ upon the heaven and that His ‘excellency’ (#1346, majesty) is in the sky. Again, that’s because He, and His holy angels, flying vehicles are awesome to behold. So, we shouldn’t be upset when hard times come. It’s a part of life and truly, makes our faith stronger **if** we learn to trust in our Heavenly Father and follow His guidance. And even if our friends, family, neighbors and acquaintances don’t want to have anything to do with us anymore when we begin to study God’s Word for ourselves, we shouldn’t worry about it. The Holy Spirit will give us the comfort and inner peace we need to be happy despite the ‘hard times’ if we continue to keep His will in our heart and mind, and *not* our own desires.

Psalms 31

12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

David continues to express his feelings of being ostracized by neighbors and acquaintances and he uses the analogy of how a person who has died from a flesh body is quickly forgotten by those who knew them (aside from close friends or beloved family members). The words ‘I am forgotten’ are one Hebrew word that means *to mislay*, i.e. *to be oblivious of, from want of memory* or attention (#7911). And the words ‘I am’ used in the second half of this verse means *to exist*, i.e. *be* or *become*, or *come to pass* (#1961). So, it would be better translated as David *became* like a ‘broken vessel’, just as the word ‘was’ in Gen 1:2 would have been better translated as ‘became’ [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Genesis/21]. And the word ‘broken’ here means *to wander away*, i.e. *lose oneself*; by implication *to perish* (causative, destroy) (#6). And the word ‘vessel’ here means *something prepared*, i.e. *any apparatus* (as an implement, utensil, dress, vessel or weapon), so ‘vessel’ probably is a good translation.

So, David felt like he had become a vessel (used for food, water, or whatever) that was discarded after it became broken. Back in those days people often used pottery vessels for food, water, oil, wine, etc. But when it got broke, there was no fixing it, *so they just tossed it out*. So, David is

saying *that's how he felt people were treating him*. And this does happen to people still yet today. As Peter wrote...

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1 Peter 4:1-4

If you used to like to ‘party it up’ before you ‘came to Christ, Jesus’ then you’ll probably well understand what Peter is saying here. Those who we used to party with just don’t understand why we don’t want to do so anymore, and they might speak evil of us because they just don’t understand the joy and peace that comes from putting off that filthy lifestyle and serving our Heavenly Father instead of our carnal (fleshly) desires. However, the same thing can happen when you come out of empty Church doctrines that teach ‘traditions of man’ instead of the truth. People can even be crueller to those who leave ‘their’ Church than the partiers are to those who stop partying with them, simply because many Church goers are self-righteous hypocrites. But, either way, it does not matter. When you know the truth, it sets your soul free from anxieties, worries, fears, lusts, pride, greed and so forth (John 8:31-36, Rom 6) and there’s nothing better than the sweet peace of mind (and heart) that the Holy Spirit brings to our soul and spirit (ad David pointed out in Ps 16:11). David will point this out later on in this Psalm, once he’s done explaining his emotions from being ostracized...

Psalm 31

13 For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

The word ‘slander’ here does indeed mean *slander* and that is it’s only meaning (#1681). And the definition of slander is *to either utter a false and defamatory oral statement about a person or to utter false charges, or misrepresentations, which defame and damage another's reputation*. This is, for sure, what Saul was doing to David; and apparently many others in Israel at the time. So, David was being falsely represented as a traitor of Israel, as though he was rebelling against the king of Israel who God had anointed. Yet, none of that was true. David stayed loyal to Saul, to his nation and to His God who established Israel. Yet, because of the slander, David felt there was ‘fear on every side’ – meaning, everywhere he went he was not sure if someone would ‘rat him out’ because many people were ‘taking counsel’ against him to find a way to take his life. David truly was running for his life *for years* as Saul kept chasing him. This, in spite of the fact

that Saul had many bigger ‘fish’ to worry about – such as the Philistines, who eventually were the death of him. Proverbs gives us some very wise advice about slanderers...

*18 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and **he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.***
19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.
21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.
Prov 10:18-21

Only fools slander; the wise hold their tongue instead of gossiping. But, what we should continue to keep in mind (and learn from David’s life) is *this is likely how we’ll feel when the antichrist, Satan, is here on earth*. When we refuse to bow a knee to Satan (and his wicked ‘beast’ system), those who will openly slander us *the most*, are likely going to be those who *actually know us*. So, we have to be mentally prepared for this. Getting a ‘thick skin’ doesn’t come overnight. If you have committed your soul and spirit (in trust) to the Lord (like David did, Ps 31:5-6), then you’re going to have to learn to take criticism, slander and all kinds of mental, and verbal, abuse because people can get really nasty when they think you are upsetting their ‘apple cart’. And we don’t even have to look at Biblical examples to see this. All you have to do is think back to recent past during the Covid 19 ‘pandemic’ and see how cruelly people were treated when they refused to take the ‘vaccine’, despite the fact that it had not even been adequately tested. You can learn why the policies were *really* set in place with the special study on [**Is This a Dry Run or Is a Transformation Taking Place** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/285>]. So, never forget the ‘old’ (as in Biblical) or more ‘recent’ examples of how people treat those who don’t ‘go along to get along’. They are less popular than a ‘hair in a biscuit’. Are you ready for that? Below are some studies to help you prepare for it...

Oil Needed; Be Sure You’re Ready - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>
COVID and the Greatest World History, Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/344>
The COVID Deception - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/347>
The Coming Out, Lust and Copulation - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/199>
Do Not Be Deceived - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>
Deception and Sin; Are You In Charge? - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/247>
Hold to God’s Word with Understanding - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/248>

*10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***
11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Eph 6:10-18

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.

1 Cor 10:11-13

We'll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.