

Part 5 – Hope in the Lord

In part 4 we learned how David trusted in the Lord (YHVH) because He is our creator; both of our soul and also our flesh body. While our parents are the ones who God uses to bring us into this world through a flesh body, it's the Lord (YHVH) – our Creator – who puts our soul into the flesh when it's first conceived and then forms us into a human being while we're in our mother's womb. David well understood this, and that is why he humbly submitted all the affairs of his life into the Father's hand, because there is *no one* better to trust our life (flesh life and our soul) with. He alone can protect us from evil and make His face to “shine” upon us by giving us blessings; first and foremost, by giving us peace of mind that comes from being at peace with our Creator. As such, when we continue to seek, serve, obey, love, worship and cleave to Him with *all* our heart mind and soul, He continues to help us grow spiritually mature. And many times, this is done through the hard times that come in life. Our faith often grows the *most* as we witness how our Heavenly Father helps us through *all* the hard times in our life, as David learned so well, for he had many of them. So, it does not matter how many lying lips come against us (nor anything else), the Lord is able to put them to shame, and disappoint them, by punishing the wicked while protecting and blessing us who remain faithful servants to Him. We'll now move on to continue to see what else this beautiful Psalm teaches us, in view of Psalm 20 – which spoke of how the Lord alone atones us of our sins (through Jesus Christ's precious blood, Heb 10:10) and thus also delivers us out of all ‘times of trouble’, even *the great* ‘time of trouble’, the tribulation of the antichrist (Satan) which is still yet to come...

Psalm 31

19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Though David often expresses his distress from being persecuted in the Psalms, and thus also prayed often for the wicked to be punished, he never forgot to praise our Heavenly Father (YHVH) for His holiness, graciousness and tender mercies. And that's because David well knew that the Lord's ‘goodness’ is laid up (#6845 reserved) *only* for those who ‘fear’ and trust Him. And to ‘fear’ the Lord is twofold. It means both to literally fear Him but also to revere Him (#3373). We should fear Him in that we *fear to do evil*, because we know the punishments He gives to those who do so (Prov 16:6). But we should also fear Him in that we revere (honor and respect) Him. For He truly deserves our highest reverence, because He alone is Holy as well as all powerful. As Ps 111:3 says, *His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever*. Deut 32:4 also reminds us that, *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: **a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he***. And in another Psalm of David, he declares...

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

*18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him **in truth**.*

*19 He will fulfil the desire **of them that fear him**: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.*

*20 The LORD preserveth **all them that love him**: but all the wicked will he destroy.*

Ps 145:17-20

So, over and over the Scriptures (even the Psalms) reiterate to us the timeless truth that our Heavenly Father is the Creator of all things in the Universe. And Rev 4:11 tells us He created all things *for His pleasure*. Ezek 18:4 tells us that even our soul belongs to Him, because He created our soul as well as the flesh body we live in. As such, He is very loving to those who fear (and revere) Him. If we seek Him – which, the only way we can do so is to seek truth (through His Word), for He is the God of truth (Deut 32:4) – then He'll *always* help us. That's why He's so full of goodness and indeed He does 'store up' (reserve) good things (blessings, both physically and [most importantly] spiritually) for those who love and seek Him. You can read Lev 26 and Deut 28 to see a list of the promised physical blessings He will give when we (nationally or individually) obey and seek Him (with all our heart, soul and mind, Deut 4:29). But, the Proverbs does a pretty good job of explaining this also...

*1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
7 He **layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.**
8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and **preserveth the way of his saints.**
9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*
Prov 2:1-9

When we seek wisdom (i.e. God's Word) with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 4:29, Mk 12:30) – as though we were seeking silver or other hidden treasures (for God's Word is better than all earthly treasures, Prov 8:11) - then we *will* find it through the knowledge of God (i.e. in His Word). And we'll also understand that 'fearing' God (both fearing and revering Him) is what brings true wisdom, knowledge and understanding of all things in life. These are the most precious 'things' that we can be given from the Lord. While it's 'nice' to have carnal 'things' (and money to buy that which we want), what is far more important is to have *the wisdom to manage what we have*. Because if we don't know how to manage our money well (or our time or emotions) then more money won't help us; it'll actually be a detriment for us, because if we cannot even manage what little money we do have, we'll be no better at it if we have more money! And money is also detrimental to us if it becomes more important to us than having a close relationship with our Heavenly Father. As Paul warned his protégé, Timothy...

*6 But **godliness with contentment is great gain.**
7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
8 And having food and raiment **let us be therewith content.**
9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.***

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Tim 6:6-12

Paul reminds us that we should *flee* the ‘love of money’. While it’s certainly not a sin to *have* money, it is a sin to *covet* it. And it’ll harm our own soul if we do so, because those who strive to be rich end up falling into *many* snares and traps that cause them to fall for foolish and hurtful lusts. Having (and desiring) lots of money tends to not only fuel pride but also covetousness, which is idolatry (Col 3:5). As Prov 23:4 so wisely advises us, we shouldn’t labor (work) to be rich. Meaning, we should work to sustain ourself, and family, but *not* to fulfill our lusts. We actually should be striving to ‘crucify’ (kill) our lusts (as well as pride, greed, envy, etc.) and work to be the kind of person that will be able to inherit the Kingdom of God. So, while it’s good to work for a living to provide what you need for yourself and your family, working simply for the sake of making money (or to gain power, fame or prestige, etc.) is not good (very unwise) because it will corrupt your heart and mind. Jesus warns us of this also in Matt 6:24 when stating that we can’t serve two masters. We’ll either love the riches of the world and hate our Heavenly Father, or vice versa. And James reminds us also in James 4:4 that *whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

And, in John 6:27 Jesus also tells us to *labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.* Again, this doesn’t mean we shouldn’t work for a living to be able to buy the food and other necessities in life we need. What Jesus is telling us here is that we can’t put making money (or anything else for that matter) as *more important* to us in life than striving to obey our Heavenly Father, *sincerely*, from the heart for not keeping Him (obeying His Word) as the most important thing to us in life, *is how we fall into idolatry.* As Peter says in 1 Peter 4:1-2, we should live our life - not to fulfill lusts of our flesh - but rather, to fulfill God’s will for our life. We should find the gift(s) God has given us and strive to use them, no matter what job we are working at (Mth 25:14-30). After all, this is what Jesus Christ did, and He is our example (John 13:15). Which is why Jesus also said in Matt 6:33, that our main priority in life should be to seek to be a part of the kingdom of God (i.e. part of the Body of Christ) and we do that by seeking HIS righteousness. If we keep serving God as our top priority in life, He’ll make it so we are well able to provide for our self and family. We won’t have all we want in life (because lust is never ending) but we will have all we need and usually, *much more* than we actually need. One way to help keep yourself from lusting is to make sure and ‘count your blessings’ each day *and* thank God for them. It’s easier to keep your heart from lusting when you remember how much God has *already* given you in your life, instead of thinking about all the things you ‘think’ you want. As Col 3:1-2 reminds us: *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,*

*where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

Further, we should also keep in the forefront of our mind (and heart) what lies ahead for us *after* this life (or when Jesus Christ returns, whichever comes first). As Jesus reminds us in Mth 6:25, there's much more to life in this flesh body than 'meat' and 'drink' – meaning the things of this flesh world. We should remember that life in the flesh is truly short (it's very temporary) and it's also a time of testing. We're here to learn the consequences of our sins, as well as how sins of others impact us (and vice versa). And we're also here to better learn of our Heavenly Father. This is done many ways but consider how we can learn to better appreciate (and understand) our Heavenly Father's feelings when we marry and have children of our own; also consider how you feel when you lose a loved one to fleshly death. Our Heavenly Father truly loves us and doesn't want us to have to die spiritually. So, when we raise children, it should be easier to grasp His feelings for us, and also to understand why He gives us His laws. Just as we have 'house' rules *for the protection of our children, so too does He* (Deut 10:13). And just as He will be pained deeply by having to lose some of His children to spiritual death, so too do we mourn if our children die before us. There are truly many things in this life that can help us to understand our Heavenly Father's feelings (i.e. how to get to know Him), which will help us to grow and mature into someone who is fit to live in the Kingdom of God - **if** we only embrace the opportunities to do so [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/356>]. Therefore, we should learn of, and remember, the great promises we have for obeying our Heavenly Father, despite the persecutions that come from doing so, because our rewards (the 'goodness' God gives us) will 'pay' us long after we have died. As Paul so beautifully explains...

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

*8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all** them also that love his appearing.*

2 Tim 4:6-8

When Paul wrote these letters to Timothy when he was a prisoner. Not for any crime, but for teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And he says that he was ready to die, if it was the Lord's will, because he knew he had worked hard (since the day of his conversion, Acts 9) to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as God had commissioned him to do (Acts 26:16-18). And, because he had 'kept the faith', Paul knew there was a 'crown of righteousness' laid up for him when he departed from his flesh body. Which is not only something for him, but also for *all* those who remain faithful in their waiting for Jesus Christ to return to earth to make all things 'right' *and* to 'right every wrong'. Judgment for faithful Christians at that day will be a wonderful thing, and we should always remember that! After all, we're promised not only eternal life, but also being allowed to reign with Jesus Christ when He returns, which is why we'll be given a crown of righteousness (Rev 20:4-6).

Psalms 31

20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

The subject of this verse picks up from the last verse, which spoke of the goodness that the Lord has ‘laid up’ for those who trust and ‘fear’ (and revere) Him. And so, one of the ‘good things’ He gives to us is to ‘hide’ us (by a covering, #5641) in the ‘secret’ (a cover, #5643) of His presence (His face, #6440) to protect us from the pride of man. And then David explains the same thing in a different way by stating He’ll ‘keep’ (to hide by covering over, protect #6845) them (those who fear and trust Him) ‘secretly’ (by a cover, #5643) in a ‘pavilion’ (a hut or liar, #5521) from the strife (contest, #7379) of tongues. As our studies in the Psalms reveals, one of the things that David was often attacked by, aside from physical armies, was the by the lying tongues of wicked people (Ps 7 for example). As James points out, our tongue can be terribly detrimental...

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

*6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the **tongue** among our members, that it **defileth the whole body**, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

*8 But **the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.***

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

James 3:2-10

Truly, out of all the body parts we have, our tongue is the hardest to control. And it can (and has) cause a whole lot of trouble when people use it *for evil*. That’s actually what caused the destruction of the first earth age. When Satan corrupted himself, by allowing his pride to swell (Ezek 28), *he began to use his tongue for evil*. As Jesus said in John 8:44, Satan is not only a liar but he is the ‘father’ of all lies (and liars) because he taught God’s children how to lie to get what you want (lust) [Learn more in : **Do you Know:** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/243>, part 1 and **Do You Know**, Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/244>]. This is why the essence of all warfare is spiritual war (Eph 6). And ***that war is fought with ideas which are conveyed through ideas, either spoken or written***. And David well knew this. That’s why he has had much to say about those lying tongues in earlier Psalms. In Ps 5:9, he wrote that *there is no faithfulness in*

their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue. In Ps 10:7, he wrote that *his* (the wicked) *mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.* And in Ps 12:4 David pointed out that they think there are no consequences to their wicked use of their tongues for they say: *with our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?* Well, the reality is that YHWH is Lord over them whether they want to admit it or not, and He's given all authority over heaven and earth to His Son, Jesus Christ (Mth 29:18-20) – who they deny. So, like it or not they will one day (soon) realize that, if they want to use their tongue for evil, then they will reap evil as a reward for that. As another Psalm promises...

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.***

Ps 37:14-15

The sword and arrow are both used in God's Word as an analogy for our words, mouth or lips. And, as such, they can be used for good, *or evil*. Scriptures such as Ps 57:4, 64:3, 11:2, Prov 25:18, Jer 9:8 and more reveal how the wicked use lying and deceitful words as arrows and a sword. Yet, God likens His Word to a sword in Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12, Rev 2:16 and 19:15:21. And Rev 13:10 also tells us that *he that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.* And it is His mighty sword of TRUTH (the Word of God) that will be pierced into the hearts of all those who love to lie. ***They will have to face the truth no matter if they like it or not*** – and of course, they don't like it, they hate it, as Jesus said...

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

*18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth **not** is condemned already, because he hath **not** believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

*21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, **that they are wrought in God.***

John 3:17-21

So, at this point in time the wicked hide behind their lies. And that's why they refuse to accept the truth, because they don't want their wicked deeds to be exposed. But, when Jesus Christ returns, they will have nowhere to hide, for they won't be allowed to hid behind their lying words anymore. They won't control the media, the schools or religion anymore, nor politicians or the economy. That will all be done away with as 2 Pt 3 and Rev 19 describes so very well.

But, until Jesus Christ returns to thrust that glittering sword (of truth) into the hearts of the wicked, He has not left us defenseless. Let's look at verse 20 again...

Psalm 31

20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Let's remember, the subject of this verse picks up from the last verse, which spoke of the goodness that the Lord has 'laid up' for those who trust and 'fear' (and revere) Him. And so, one of the 'good things' He gives to us, **is to 'hide' us** (by a covering, #5641) **in the 'secret'** (a cover, #5643) **of His presence** (His face, #6440), which protects us from the pride of man. And then David explains the same thing in a different way by stating He'll 'keep' (to hide by covering over, protect #6845) them (those who fear and trust Him) 'secretly' (by a cover, #5643) in a 'pavilion' (a hut or liar, #5521) from the strife (contest, #7379) of tongues. So, what's David saying here? He's saying **the Lord protects us from deception** (lying tongues produced by the pride of mankind) **by covering us with His Holy Spirit**. We *can* be with Him (in His presence) 'in spirit' *when His Holy Spirit is within us*. **That means we can communicate with God Almighty** (the One who Created the Universe) **anytime we want to, when we believe in Jesus Christ**. Jesus has set up a method of communicating with our Heavenly Father that can't be broken, as He explained in John 15. To learn more about this, check out the two-part study below...

The Vine – Part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992>

The Vine – Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/993>

So, the Holy Spirit is what protects (covers us *spiritually* with truth) us when we hear lies, or even when we are being lied about. He 'hides' us simply by putting His Holy Spirit into us, and keeping it there, to cover and protect our heart and mind, from any (and all) lies we hear or read. And, as we've learned before (Ps 27:5), His 'pavilion' we're taken to is the peace we have in our soul when we learn to trust in Him. Psalms 91 speaks of this too and explains clearly that the Lord's truth is our spiritual shield and buckler (vs 4) And, as Eph 6:16 says, our faith in Jesus Christ (the Word of God, John 1) is what protects us spiritually. That's because believing in the truth (Gods' Word) 'covers' us with wisdom (Prov 8:11), which keeps us from being deceived. So, essentially, the 'secret' 'pavilion' we have access to is the peace, and understanding, He gives in our soul when we learn to *trust* in Him.

Another interesting point to this verse is that the word 'pride' here actually means *trade*, as *peddled* (#7404). It comes from a prim root that means *to travel for trading* (7402). That's why the *Companion Bible* says 'pride' could even be rendered as a 'conspiracy'. *What* conspiracy? The same one spoken of back in Psalm 2, where the leaders of this world conspire against the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty, and His Anointed One (Jesus Christ). They are working to bring a new world order – government – together, as well as a one world *region* so that, when Satan is cast out of heaven, he can govern the world with his wicked 'beast' system that is designed to

control all aspects of the world, including trade. As Ezekiel 28 tells us, Satan learned to *weaponize* the government, the economy, education systems as well as ‘religion’ – he learned to control (and manipulate) it all, so he can use these aspects in society *to control the world in a very evil way*. He (and his followers) seek to not only control trade, but also all people. And what Satan is ultimately after, is the souls of man. As Rev 18:12-13 tells us, even the ‘souls of men’ are considered ‘commodity’ to be bought and sold. Satan wants us to ‘sell our soul’ *to him* (worship him and his ‘beast’ system) *instead of* loving and serving the Most-High God (YHVH) and His Son, Jesus Christ – who is the *true* King of kings and Lord of lords. So, the ‘pride’ of mankind (conspiracy to get all of God’s children to rebel against Him) is very strong, and will continue to be so until Jesus Christ finally returns to put an end to it. But, we must *never* forget, we have a ‘safe place’ (the secret pavilion) to spiritually ‘hide’ in during these times, even *now*. And that ‘safe place’ is in our own soul, *when we trust in the Lord* with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 4:29), just as David learned to do.

Psalm 31

21 Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

As we’ve learned before, to ‘bless the Lord’ is an act of worship (in adoration) of the Most High-God (YHVH) (#1288). And truly, we do ‘bless’ the Lord when we love and adore Him because when we truly do so, we will also strive to obey His Words. In other words, we bless Him when we try to do what’s right (righteousness) because *it pleases Him* when we try to do what’s right; simply because that means we are not trying to hurt His children. As Rom 13:10 so succinctly says, *love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law*. And so, David ‘blessed’ the Lord (YHVH, #3068) - and he did so because He showed David His marvelous kindness in a ‘strong city’. Most scholars agree that this ‘strong city’ is the Lord (YHVH) Himself, due to Isa 26:1 which says that *we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks*. And this is true, for our Heavenly Father (and His Son, Jesus Christ) is our ‘strong city’ because His Holy Spirit *always* protects us from deception as well as physically, when we serve Him faithfully as David did. And, as we’ve learned before, the Lord also has a great heavily army that can fight in this dimension when He wants to (2 Sam 5:23-25), as 2 Kings 6:17 reveals as well.

But it’s possible David was actually referring to (or thinking of at the time) was the city of Ziklag, which the king of the Philistines (Achish) gave to David and his men when they fled there to escape from the king of Israel, Saul (1 Sam 27:6). From that city David was protected from Saul because *it was in Phillistine territory*, and the Philistines were a great enemy to Israel at that time; so, Saul was not able to chase David anymore when he was in Ziklag. Thus, it was from Ziklag that David felt less persecuted from Saul and that’s also where David and his followers really started gaining some victories (fighting Israel’s enemies), which is what began to help David see that the Lord was indeed with Him. It was quite a unique situation. David had fled to Achish (one of the kings of the Philistines) to protect him from Saul (king of Israel). But, *David didn’t fight against Israel*. Instead, he fought the Philistines and told Achish that he was fighting Israel. But, because David killed off all of the Philistines in the cities he attacked (so no

one was left alive to tell who really raided the city, 1 Sam 27:6-11), *Achish believed him*, insomuch that he thought David was making himself an enemy to Israel and would be loyal to him forever (1 Sam 27:12).

So, whatever ‘strong city’ David is really referring to, the fact remains that our Heavenly Father is our ultimate ‘strong city’. For, when we trust in Him, we have a massive army supporting us... it’s just that we can’t see it! Nevertheless, *it is there* and we should *always* remember this. Our Heavenly Father truly can protect us (both physically and spiritually) no matter what comes our way (Mth 18:10). And He will do so **if** we are faithful servants of His. The life of people such as David, Jesus Christ and the apostles proves this point very well. They were all protected *until* it was their time to die, because *they still had work to do for the Lord*. The same applies to us who love and serve Jesus Christ today; for we (like the apostles) are ambassadors for Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:20) and that means we are given His mighty protection, so long as we remain faithful to Him and trust in Him.

Psalm 31

22 For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

David’s first instinct when he was persecuted was natural; he felt as though he was being ‘cut off’ from the Lord because he was driven out of his nation (into the wilderness) when Saul began to try and kill him. This is likely why David visited the prophet Samuel shortly after Saul sent men to kill David *in his own home* (1 Sam 19:18). After all, it was Samuel who had anointed David to be king (1 Sam 16:13), so David was likely asking Samuel *why* this was happening to him. And while he likely got assurance from Samuel that David really was in good standing with the Lord, this did not stop the persecutions. For, David had to flee even from Samuel’s presence because Saul was *still* chasing him. And this continued on for a long time, until David finally went to Achish and asked for protection, in which time he was given the city of Ziklag.

So, David is simply saying here that he first thought his persecutions meant he was in disfavor with the Lord; but he eventually realized this was not the case at all, for the Lord gave him so many military victories (over Israel’s enemies, even when he was living amongst Israel’s enemies!) that it became quite apparent that the Lord *did* hear his prayers and *was answering them*, even if it was not as quickly as he wanted. This is good for us to remember too, because sometimes we have to endure hard times for a while before ‘deliverance’, or even *some* relief, comes. As Paul said in his letter to the Hebrews (true Israel) ...

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

*37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come **will come**, and will not tarry.*

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Heb 10:35-39

Eternal life won't be given to us until Jesus Christ returns, nor will the wickedness of this earth stop before that time. Therefore, we must continue to be patient and remember the promise we're given. We must also act in faith, according to the promises God's Word gives us, so we can obtain the rewards that come from *faithfully obeying* our Heavenly Father, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Though hard times are coming (yea, even here) *they won't last forever*. All wickedness – even the 'wicked one', Satan – will be deposed and those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ will be given eternal life, and allowed to rule with Him. As the great Psalm reminds us, we must be **Faithful Instead of Fearful** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/419>] and remember what we are instructed to do for the Lord [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/297>].

Psalm 31

23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

David now beseeches all the 'saints' – those who are faithful to the Lord (YHVH) – to love the Lord (YHVH) because He preserves (guards, #5341) us. As Ps 11 reminds us, He keeps a close eye on all His children and well knows how to reward both the righteous (those who faithfully serve Him) and the wicked (2 Pt 2:9). However, the 'rewards' are very different! As the Psalms says...

4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Ps 11:4-7

So, while the Lord 'rewards' the wicked by fighting against (and punishing) them (according to their unrepentant and evil doings), He also rewards those, who love and obey Him, *because they serve Him* (Deut 6:13, 10:12, 20, 11:13) *and not evil* (i.e. false gods and idols, Deut 5:9, 11:16). As Ps 96:4-5 says, we should 'fear' (to disobey) the Lord because *all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens*. It's foolish to serve false gods (such as Satan) and idols (things which our heart lusts, or covets, after) because the Lord (YHVH) alone made the heavens and the earth and thus, He can do whatever He wants with us. And He simply won't put up with rebels forever. This is why Ps 97:10 says, *ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked*. And again in Ps 145:20, we're told *the LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy*. And in Prov 2:8 we're told that the Lord (YHVH) *keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way*

of his saints. And Prov 16:17 declares that *the highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.* And in Proverbs 6, the Lord outlines six things He really hates, pride being one of them. So, if we want to be preserved forever (i.e. obtain eternal life) we must make sure we remain faithful to Him. We cannot allow our carnal mind (our heart) to control us because *that's* what causes us to fall away from our Heavenly Father and worship other Gods. As Rom 8:6 so succinctly says, *for to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Psalms 31

24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

David ends this beautiful Psalm by reminding (likely himself, but also us) all those who hope in the Lord to be of good courage (be strong and courageous, #2388) because He will strengthen (help us to be alert and courageous, #553) our heart (our carnal mind, Rom 8) so we are not afraid of what the wicked can do to us. And this is vitally important, both in physical and spiritual warfare, because *fear causes our heart to cave to the wicked*, something we cannot do if we want to be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. David ended Psalms 27 (as Psalm of assurance) with the same admonition: *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD* (vs 14). But we do not do that by doing nothing, which is what wait in the English implies. As we learned when studying that great Psalm 27, the word 'wait' means to bind our soul (#6960) to our Heavenly Father's soul. And we do that by studying His Word diligently and consistently, *trusting* in it and *acting upon it* 'in faith' – *knowing* that if we continue to obey (serve) Him the best we can (from the heart), He'll always help us. And He does, as David's life is proof of. But, as Heb 11 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Hebrews/33] also points out, there are *many other* examples of great men and women of faith.

And the examples given in Heb 11 (and elsewhere in God's Word) reveal just *how powerful faith in God is*. These people were able to, not only accomplish great things, but also to endure terribly difficult situations, simply because their faith in God was so strong; and they didn't even have the Gift of the Holy Spirit, as we do today. *How much more then, can we do today if we believe in God's Word and have the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help us?* Truly we can accomplish even more IF we learn to 'walk in the Spirit' by allowing God's Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily lives and teach us as we study His precious Word (John 14:12). Heb 11 also teaches us that we should never feel alone, for there have been many people who lived before us that were able to do great things through their faith in God. And now that we have access to God's Holy Spirit (whenever we need it), we truly have a great Advocate to guide, protect and comfort us (John 14). And further, Heb 11 also tells us that all of those who lived before us (and had great faith) had to wait for eternal life. They didn't obtain it in their flesh life, and neither will we. But, we *will* obtain eternal life **if** we remain in 'good courage', because the Holy Spirit within us is *more powerful* (much more) than any of the wicked people (or evil spirits) that surround us.

So, even though we face the 'great' tribulation (when Satan is cast to the earth, with his fallen angels) we should remain in 'good courage' and continue to 'bind' our soul to the Lord (YHVH)

*through our faith in Jesus Christ. And we do that by continuing to study His Word faithfully, believing in it, trusting in it (and His Holy Spirit) and striving to serve Him by the guidance of His blessed Holy Spirit. Our Heavenly Father will never remove His Holy Spirit from us so long as we don't refuse to obey Him, and go back to rebelliously (habitually) sinning against Him. As Ps 37:34 tells us, **Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.** Prov 20:22 further admonishes us, *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.* And Hos 12:6 also beseeches us: *Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.**

*31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:31-32

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

*38 For I am persuaded, that **neither** death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Rom 8:35-39

*25 The LORD is good unto them that **wait** for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*

*26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly **wait** for the salvation of the LORD.*

Lam 3:25-26

AMEN.