

Part 1 – The Lord is a Man of War

In chapter thirty-four, part 1, we learned how important it is to bless the Lord (in adoration) and praise Him through the day (even if only in our own mind) because this helps to keep our mind (and heart) on the reality that this flesh life is *temporary*; and that means *so are the 'hard times'* we have to go through. So, we shouldn't fear or dread the hard times; especially since it is often the hard times that help us grow spiritually mature *the most*; for they often cause our faith in God's Word to grow *more*, simply because, it is when we need help the most that we have the opportunity to trust in our Heavenly Father (and His Word) the most. And we also learned that this "Psalm of deliverance for the oppressed" was written by David when he was hiding in a cave because he was 'on the run' from the king of Israel (Saul at the time) who kept trying to kill him (because he was jealous of David). And, because there were hundreds of discontented men who had come to David (who were tired of Saul's taxes and other burdens), David was trying to cheer them up and give them comfort by teaching them about the Lord (YHVH) and His great promises. That's why this is a good Psalm for us to remember too, when times are hard (or even when they are good). We *always* have much to be thankful for; and the promise that our Heavenly Father will help us out of *all* our troubles (when we cleave to Him wholeheartedly) is one of the biggest blessings we have; for it He that saves our soul from spiritual death by pulling us out of (and keeping us out of) the deceptive lies of Satan.

In part 2 we learned how, even during the hard times, we should continue to magnify the Lord and exalt His name. This means we should continue to shed the Light of the Gospel through our faithful (and humble) obedience to Him, as well as plant seeds of truth, as the opportunities arise. And David wrote this because he was encouraging the men who were hiding in the cave (from Saul and Israel's army) not to be depressed about their circumstances but rather, take faith in the Lord and praise Him *because* He would help them *if* they looked to (trust in) Him for help. David had already experienced this many times, so he knew what he was talking about. And, because he was leading the men, he knew that it was important to keep their moral up. Thus, David also pointed out that our countenance can only be enlightened by God's Word – understanding it and believing in it - because He's promised to help those who fear Him *if* they simply trust in Him and wait for His deliverance (and serve Him faithfully in the meantime). David also pointed out that the 'angel of the Lord' (which is Jesus Christ) will surround those who truly trust in Him (and seek to sincerely obey Him). And we have many Biblical examples to prove that this is true. David also called the men to 'taste' and see that the Lord is good by trusting in Him, for they *would* experience the Lord's goodness *if* they cleaned their hearts and kept faith in Him. For indeed, only the wicked (symbolized by lions in the Word of God) lack the truth and knowledge needed to be saved by the Lord, and to live with Him forever. But, those who cleave to the Lord will seek Him through His Word and that's why they'll always be fed and taken care of; both in this life and forever more.

In part 3 we learned a very important lesson. And that is, in order to 'fear the Lord' we *must* depart from evil. And, even when we are persecuted (by the government, or individuals) we must not resort to doing evil ourselves, but learn to overcome evil by doing good, which simply means

we stick to obeying God's Law in all aspects of our life. For when we do so, we truly will heap 'coals of fire' upon the heads of the wicked, for they *hate* the truth. So, when you speak truth to them, or simply shine the Light of God's Word (the truth) through your actions, it 'burns' them inside like nothing else will. We also learned an important part of departing from evil is to learn to control our tongue; for that's one of the hardest body parts (if not *the* hardest part) to control. We also learned that fearing the Lord, departing from evil and doing good means we must also seek peace and pursue it as though we were running after something very valuable. However, that doesn't mean we are to be a 'walking mat' for anyone. Standing firm in your convictions to obey God's Word cannot be sacrificed for 'making peace'. Thus, it's not always possible to live peaceably with all people. For, if they truly hate you for loving and obeying the Lord, they will persecute you no matter what. But again, this shouldn't bother us, for the Lord will help us *if* we remain faithful to Him. If we 'stick with' Him, then He'll always 'stick with' us.

In part 4 we learned that our Heavenly Father is very attentive to those who are righteous (those who love Him and sincerely try to obey and serve Him) but He is against those who do evil and will punish them according to their works *until* they repent wholeheartedly. And if they never do then, eventually (after the Millennial teaching period) their soul and spirit will be totally blotted out of existence. And so, while the Lord sees and hears all that goes on in earth (including what's going on in the heart and minds of all his children, good and bad alike) He is only attentive to helping those who are righteous. And, we also learned He is nigh (close) to those who have a broken heart and contrite spirit. A broken heart and contrite spirit refer to those who, because of their extreme inner pain and despair in their lives, finally come to a good repentance. And, even when our life (including our heart and mind) seems like it's broken beyond repair, our Heavenly Father *can* (and will) deliver us out of all our afflictions (internally and externally) when we turn to Him in *sincere* repentance, accept our chastisement and strive to change the way we think, what we desire as well as our words and actions. In other words, sincere repentance means a change of life, mind and heart. And when we do this, the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us, no matter how dire our situation seems or how much internal pain we have. Anyone who has felt the cleansing touch of the Holy Spirit knows *how much* of a comfort it is, which is why (of course) the Holy Spirit is also called *the Comforter* (John 14-16).

In part 5 we learned that even those who are righteous (faithfully follow Jesus Christ) will have afflictions in this life because we're in a spiritual war and Satan (our arch enemy), along with all those who follow him, will try hard to get our faith in Jesus Christ to waiver. And if they can't, then they will persecute us because they hate the truth that we are spreading (i.e. the Gospel of Jesus Christ). And, it's truly *always* been this way. Those who serve the Lord (YHVH), and His Son, Jesus Christ, have (throughout this entire earth age) always been persecuted. That's why Cain was murdered, as well as the prophets, apostles and the Son of God Himself (Acts 7:52). So, we shouldn't expect any better treatment if we really are faithful servants of Jesus Christ. However, if we continue to do what's right, and trust in our Heavenly Father – even during the hard times - He will *always* deliver us. He won't even let our 'bones' be broken, which means that He won't let soul, or spirit, be crushed from the persecutions (or deception) because Jesus Christ shed His precious blood to atone for our sins and give us His Holy Spirit that protects us

from all evil (rev 1:5). And we also saw how verse 20 was also a prophecy that the Lord wouldn't (and didn't) let His Son's literal bones be broken when He was on the cross (fulfilling vs 20 here, as well as Ex 12:46 and Num 9:12) because Jesus Christ was the *true* Passover Lamb. Which is why He can protect us through all the hard times that come, because He's our intercessor and watches over us closely (Rom 8). However, He also makes sure that the wicked will be judged, and punished, according their own wicked words and works. All those who hate the righteous *will* be desolate, which means to be judged or even to perish (as in being blotted out of existence in the lake of fire). But, while the wicked will be punished (especially so when Jesus Christ returns) those who love, serve and trust in Jesus Christ will not be desolated (punished or perish) because, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the Lord (YHVH) has indeed redeemed our souls. So, this last chapter reiterated to us the timeless truth that ***the wicked will be 'brought down' by their own wicked words and works***. Short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and pronouncements *coming out of their mouths* which they've used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father's kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). So, those who do what is right (and depart from evil) will be blessed and allowed to live forever (eternal life) but those who are wicked, and refuse to repent, will be cursed and not allowed to live forever. And while the Lord is very attentive to help those who remain loyal to Him, He is also just as attentive to punish those who are not, because they do *wickedness* (evil). This means they harm His children; not only the innocent and those too poor and weak (physically or spiritually) to defend themselves, but they also persecute *His* Servants. And *that's* why He punishes the wicked; quite frankly, they deserve it. And for the Lord not to punish the wicked would mean He is condoning them; something the Lord will never do for He loveth righteousness and judgment (Ps 33:5).

We now come to another beautiful Psalm. And this one is the Messiah's prayer (and praise) written 'in view of' Psalms 22, which was a Psalm that spoke of the Messiah – who is the Good Shepherd (John 10) – in His death. As such we learned that, when Jesus quoted the first part of Psalm 22:1 He was *not* accusing God of forsaking Him as He hung on the cross. And that's because God *didn't ever* forsake Jesus Christ; not even as He was on the cross, paying for our sins. Rather, by quoting Psalm 22, Jesus was simply *teaching us* to 'search the Scriptures' because *they testify of Him* (John 5:39). That's why this Psalm 22 is so important; for, while it was written approximately a *thousand* years before Jesus Christ died on the cross (for our sins), Jesus' crucifixion perfectly fulfilled these Scriptures, even as He taught us on the cross (dying in agony), and many other verses in this Psalm were even fulfilled by people who crucified Him, or were watching Him be crucified. This shows us the faithfulness of God's Word, for God alone is able to prophesy of things that will come to pass (far in advance) without fail (Isa 45:11-22). Therefore, just as David was a 'type' of Jesus Christ in many Psalms, so too was he in Psalm 22 and will be in this 35th Psalms. For although it speaks of the Messiah's prayer in view of Psalm 22, it also is David's prayer to God in view of his afflictions. And so, just as the Lord (YHVH) did not leave David's soul destitute to the desires of the wicked who were punishing him (such as Saul, Absalom and more), likewise He didn't leave Jesus destitute. While the Lord delivered

David from the hand of all his enemies (as Psalms 18 records), the Lord did allow Jesus Christ to die because He did so to pay for the sins of His children who would accept His clemency through faith in Jesus Christ. But, Jesus Christ *did not stay dead*. Instead, He *literally* rose from the dead and *obtained power over all His enemies*. And because He has already taken control over heaven (Col 2:15, Heb 2:14-18, etc.), He *will* soon return to take power over all of the earth as well, at His Second Advent. And that's something we need to remember. Not only when studying this great 35th Psalm, but also in our daily life. For only when we believe in the promises of God (i.e. to help us out of all of our afflictions) will we *act in obedience* and produce the fruit of good works, and true righteousness, that results from having true faith (James 2). So, with this in mind, let's take a look at this great Psalm 35, which is written in view of the Messiah's prayer (and praise) written 'in view of' Psalms 22...

Psalm 35

1 A Psalm of David.

Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

While we're not told what time in David's life this Psalm was written, he was obviously going through hard times. It could have been during Absalon's rebellion or during his younger years when he was persecuted for years (over a decade) by Saul, who considered him a traitor. Yet, this was to not fault, or sin, of David's. David did *nothing* to warrant Saul's persecutions. David was fiercely loyal to Saul (the king) and his nation, even when he was on the run from Saul. In fact, David was even married to Saul's daughter and Saul's son, Jonathan, was David's best friend. So, in no way, shape or form was David trying to rebel against Saul. He even refused to kill him when he had the chance, which is why Saul himself admitted: *Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil* (1 Sam 24:17). Sadly, that didn't stop him from persecuting David. It was not until he died in battle with the Philistines that his persecuting David stopped. Unfortunately, David's best friend, Johnathan (Saul's son) also died in battle that same day. And David was greatly grieved at their deaths (2 Sam 1).

So, because of the context of the verses in this Psalm (which speaks of David being grieved at his enemies' adversities), it's likely that it was written in his younger years when he had been persecuted by Saul and others in the nation. The *Companion Bible* agrees with this conclusion as it notes that it was likely written during (and concerning) the times of 1 Sam 21-24, 26 and 27. Remember also that the last Psalm (34) was written during 1 Sam 22, when David was hiding in a cave and *every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men* (1 Sam 22:2). So, if you want to read through 1 Sam 21-24, 26 and 27 on your own, it might help you understand this Psalm better. However, let us not forget that this Psalm also relates to David's descendant, and Lord (Jesus Christ), in view of Psalm 22.

And what does David say in this first verse? He asks the Lord (YHWH) to 'plead his cause'. However, the words 'my cause' are not actually in the Hebrew text; they were added by the translators for better readability (#9999). Therefore, the first part of this verse actually reads:

Plead ~~my cause~~, O LORD, with them that strive with me. The word ‘**plead**’ here is a prime root that means **to toss**, i.e. **grapple**; mostly figuratively, **to wrangle** [which means to dispute angrily], i.e. **hold a controversy**; (by implication) **to defend** (#7378). Deut 25:1 says: *If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.* This was the law yet, the king of Israel himself (Saul) was wrongly persecuting David. Therefore, David had no one else to ‘plead his case’ to, *except* for God Himself. And so, he did so, because He knew he had not done anything to deserve the afflictions coming upon himself, as Psalms 26 reveals. And the Lord does have a ‘controversy’ with those to do evil, even when it’s His own people, as Scriptures such as Hos 4:1-2, Hos 12:2 and Mic 6:2-3, Isa 3:13-14, Jer 2:9, Jer 2:29-37 (and more) declare. As Jer 25:31 says, concerning the Second Advent: *A noise* [#7588 uproar, destruction] *shall come even to the ends of the earth* [when Jesus Christ returns with his holy angels in their amazing flying vehicles, Mth 24:29-31, 13:41-43, 47-50]; *for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.* Rev 19:11-21 speaks of this, as well as Deut 32:39-43, among many other Scriptures. And in Zeph 3:8, He tells us who are faithfully serving Him to: *wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.* This is one of the reasons we are not to take vengeance for ourselves; because the Lord will do it for us (Dt 32:35, 41-43, Ps 94:1, Rom 12:19-21) and He’ll do a *much* better job at it!

And that’s essentially what David is saying here. He *never* fought against his own nation, or the king (Saul) that had been anointed... even though Saul had been rejected as king of Israel by God Himself (1 Sam 15:23,26), and even though the Israelite army was doing wrong by following Saul and trying to kill David. Instead, David simply kept running away from Saul and the Israelite army. The only warfare David (and the men with him) did when they were running from Saul, and the Israelite army, was against Israel’s enemies; and even that was after David had asked God if he should do so (1 Sam 23:2,4, 30:8, 2 Sam 5:19,23). And this is why David prayed to the Lord to: *Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.* The word ‘**strive**’ here means **to contend, as an adversary** (#3401). Because David remained loyal to the Lord (YHVH), he was a servant of His. And therefore, he was entitled to His protection. The history of David versus Saul proves this; for not only did the Lord take away His Holy Spirit from Saul, and put it on David – He also refused to answer Saul anymore (1 Sam 28:6) and repeatedly answered David (1 Sam 23:2,4, 30:8, 2 Sam 5:19,23). Saul showed his true colors when (after the Lord would not answer him) he sought out a woman with a ‘familiar spirit’ (which is an evil spirit) to inquire of the prophet Samuel, who was *already dead* at that point in time. This was in direct disobedience to God’s Law (Lev 19:31, Duet 18:10-12). And death was to be the penalty for doing so. As Lev 20:6 says: *the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.* This is why, after Saul stooped so low as to go to a woman with a familiar spirit to get ‘answers’, the Lord did ‘cut him off’ (the very next day) by the sword of the Philistines, as well as three of his sons (1 Sam 31).

Now, this is the historical side of this verse; but let us also remember that, at Jesus' first Advent, Jesus also did not fight physically. He did give His enemies the 'sword' of God, which is the truth (Eph 6:17, Rev 1:16, 2:16, 19:21) many times; but He didn't fight back when they tried to kill Him. Indeed, when they tried to stone Him, the Lord helped Him escape, (John 8:59, 10:31,39) just as He did for David. But, when it was Jesus' time to die, He did not even say anything in His defense (Mth 26:62-64, 27:12-14, Mk 15:2-5, John 19:9-12). And this was to fulfill the Scriptures, such as Isa 53:7, which said: *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.* This verse in Isaiah was actually the exact same Scripture that a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship was pondering when the Holy Spirit took Phillip to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to him. As it is written, *then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached unto him Jesus*** (Acts 8:35). The man believed in Jesus Christ and was baptized that very day. And the lesson for us to learn from this is clearly explained by Peter...

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

*21 For even hereunto were ye called: **because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:***

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

*23 Who, **when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:***

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 2:19-25

The key 'takeaway' here is found in verse 23, which says that Jesus Christ *committed himself to him that judgeth righteously*, which is what David, and many other righteous men women who served the Lord (YHVH) faithfully, have done over the years. So, this is what David is doing here in this Psalms and that's why it's also prophetic of Jesus Christ. And always remember, that the vengeance of the Lord is *sure to come*. He only forgives those who sincerely repent. All others have to pay for their sins. That's why Isa 35:4 says: *Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God **will come with vengeance**, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.* That's why Jesus' request to let the 'cup of wrath' pass from Him was not answered [learn more in: **Remove This Wrath** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/484> and Jesus' Agony Over 'the Cup' - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1215>]. So, God's 'cup of wrath' should not scare those who love, serve and revere Him because, as Isa 61:2 says, it's God's 'day

of vengeance' *that comforts those who mourn* (those who are persecuted by the wicked). Only those who are participating with the wicked (who worship Satan and agree to live under his 'beast' system, i.e. take the mark of the beast, Rev 13) will be sad when the Lord's 'day of vengeance' comes! As Paul so clearly said...

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

2 Thess 1:6-10

Note how verse 1 points out that *it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you*. Because God is righteous, He punishes the wicked (Ps 11:5-9). So, we who love, serve and revere the Lord (YHVH), and *truly* keep the faith in Jesus Christ, won't be sad to see all the wicked people deposed and arrested when Jesus Christ returns; nor will we be sad to see them be blotted out of existence after the Millennium is over (Rev 20). And finally, never forget what the Lord said in Isa 63:4: *the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come*. Our Heavenly Father is greatly anticipating Jesus Christ returning to take vengeance on all evil people and reward those who are faithful with Him. *Why?* Because it truly grieves Him to see the wicked hurting His children. He only puts up with it so He can fulfill His plan of salvation. All people in the heavenly dimension must be born into the flesh before Jesus returns [**Where Did All the People Go?** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/340>]; and Satan also *has* to be cast to earth and allowed to try and fool the world into worshiping him – all before Jesus Christ returns. [**The Footstool Factor** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/989>].

Psalms 35

2 Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.

3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

What happens when the Lord takes hold of His weapons of war? The Song of Moses gives us a very vivid depiction...

39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

40 For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.

41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

42 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

43 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

Deut 32:39-43

What many people don't realize is that our Heavenly Father is a 'man of war' – He's not a pacifist. As Ex 15:3 bluntly says: **the LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.** This chapter was a song sung by Moses and the children of Israel after He had protected them from the Egyptian army. The Lord put His cloud between the Egyptian army and allowed Israel to cross the Red Sea on dry land. After that, He lifted the cloud and allowed the army to go into the sea but, before they got to the other side, He caused the water to start seeping back so the chariots got stuck and, as the soldiers began to flee back to the other side for safety, the Lord caused the waves to come *crashing back down upon their heads and swallow them up completely.* The army was obliterated. If ever there was a stunning type for how the Lord will destroy Satan's army, when Jesus Christ's return, this is a good one. Isa 42:13-14 also prophesies: *The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy **like a man of war**: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.* And, because Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, He too is a man of war. The Revelations also gives a vivid depiction of Jesus Christ as a 'man of war'...

*11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness he doth judge and make war.***

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

*15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and **he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.***

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Rev 19:11-21

But, unlike flesh mankind, the Lord's (and Jesus Christ's) warfare is *always* just. As vs 11 above says of Jesus Christ, *in righteousness he doth judge and make war*. Again, this is what comforts those who are being persecuted. So, just as the Lord did indeed judge and vindicate David out of all his troubles (as Ps 18 explained), He also will allow Jesus Christ to return and vindicate His righteous servants at the Second advent. Further, just as the Lord used His cloud to protect Israel from the Egyptian army (Ex 14), so too does He know how to 'stop' the way of those who persecute those who serve Him. As it was then, so shall it be again (Ecc 1:9). Consider what the Revelations says about the 'great tribulation' when Satan (and his fallen angels) are cast of heaven, to earth, and persecute those who don't go along with their wicked 'beast' system nor worship Satan as the Messiah...

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And **the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 12:7-17

So, even though Satan will persecute the woman (which are those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ; those who *refuse* to worship Satan *will not* participate in his wicked ‘beast’ worldwide government), and even cast out a flood of *lies* to try and cause her to apostatize, the Lord will *always* provide a way to protect those who remain faithful to Him. After all, they have work to do for Him, as Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19 explains. [Learn more in the special study on: **When Do We Quit?** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/495>].

Also to note about verse 3 is that, when David says: *say unto my soul, I am thy salvation*, He’s pointing out that: even though the Lord (and Jesus Christ) is a ‘man of war’, the Lord’s wrath is not directed at those who love, obey (serve) and revere Him. It’s only directed at His enemies. So, even though God’s wrath is coming at the Second Advent, that’s nothing for us who remain faithful to Him to worry about. As Isa 61:2 says, the day of vengeance is what comforts us. As Paul pointed out in the book of Romans...

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Rom 2:6-8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through him**.*
Rom 5:8-9

So, as long as we remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not apostatize (worship Satan), then we don’t have to fear God’s wrath because *that is only directed at His enemies*. But, let us remember the admonishment from James 4:4, which tells us that *friendship of the world is enmity with God* and that, *whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*. Therefore, let’s also remember what John tells us...

*15 **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.** If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

1 John 2:15-17

So, let’s close this study with another timely reminder...

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

*9 **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,***

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep [have died in the flesh], we should live together with him.

*11 Wherefore **comfort yourselves together, and edify one another**, even as also ye do.*

1 Thess 5:6-11

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.