

Part 2 – Don’t Be Caught Unawares

In chapter thirty-five, part 1, we learned that our Heavenly Father (as well as His Son, Jesus Christ) is a ‘man of war’. The difference, of course, between His warfare and mankind’s is that His warfare is *always* just and righteous. And that means He punishes the wicked and rewards the righteous. Thus, when David asked the Lord to ‘plead his cause’ by fighting *against* those who persecuted him, the Lord was well able to do so. And, as Ps 18 explained, the Lord indeed delivered David from all his enemies. But that was only because he remained a faithful servant to the Lord (YHWH). And we also learned that this Psalms (while being historical) is also prophetic of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it was written ‘in view of’ Ps 22, which spoke of the sufferings Jesus Christ went through to be able to pay for our sins and conquer death (Satan’s power over it). And so, while the Lord did not deliver Jesus Christ from the cross at the First Advent (and Jesus truly didn’t ask Him to, because He *willingly* died for our sins, John 10:15-18, 15:13), He will indeed have Jesus Christ take vengeance on all His enemies, when He returns as the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19). But, ‘the day of vengeance’ shouldn’t be something we fear *if* we serve Jesus Christ; because His wrath is *only* aimed at *His enemies*. He will reward and protect those who faithfully serve Him, *unto the end* (Mth 10:22, 24:13). We’ll now move on to continue to see what else David says concerning this Psalm that is the Messiah’s ‘prayer and praise in view of Psalm 22’, which (again) spoke of His sufferings at His First Advent...

Psalm 35

4 Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

David continues to beseech the Lord (YHWH) to punish the wicked who are oppressing him. And David points out that, while many of his enemies wanted him physically dead, they also cared nothing for his soul (him as a person). So, he asks the Lord to let those people be ‘**confounded**’, which means (by implication) *to be ashamed, disappointed or delayed* (#954). And for the Lord also to put to ‘**shame**’ (to *wound, taunt or insult*, #3637) those who ‘**seek after**’ (*search out or strive after*, #1245) his soul (#5315, him as a person). If we consider the ferocity that Saul, and the Israelite army, continued to hunt after David (*for years*) with, this request is quite understandable, especially because their seeking to harm David was *totally unwarranted*. David wasn’t a traitor; not to his king or his people. He had *not* been trying to overthrow the king, or the government, nor had he ever harmed (raped, murdered or plundered) his own people. Saul was simply jealous of David and (rightly) suspected that he was the one that God had ordained to be the next king of Israel. Therefore, Saul spread lies about David that (sadly) many others believed. So, this is why David further requested that those who were hunting after him to be ‘turned back’ (caused to go back, #5472, 268) and brought to ‘confusion’ (to be ashamed, disappointed, shamed or reproached, #2659) because they were devising (meaning to plot or contrive in a malicious sense, #2803) to ‘hurt’ him (do evil to him, #7451).

Indeed, many were plotting against David. And there were backstabbers too. For, even after David saved the Israelites in Keilah (from the Philistines who were robbing their thrashing floors, 1 Sam 1:1-5) they *still* ‘ratted him out’ to Saul (1 Sam 1:6-12). What’s worse, no matter where he went, there was people all around the country willing to tell Saul where David, and his men, had fled to. But thankfully, there were also others who were willing to tell David that Saul was coming after him; which is why 1 Sam 1:9 says that *David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him*. Verse 14 tells us that *Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand*. So, it’s no wonder that David was asking the Lord to confuse and shame those who were seeking to kill him. There were many other people *aside from Saul* involved in ‘hunting’ David, simply because Saul ‘practiced mischief’ *against him*. This means Saul let all of Israel know that he considered David to be a traitor. And anyone helping him was thus susceptible to punishment, as even the priests (sadly) found out. Saul didn’t even respect God’s priests enough to save their life when they helped David, even though they didn’t realize he was Saul’s enemy at the time (1 Sam 22:13-21).

So, while it’s understandable why people were scared to help David, that didn’t mean they had to ‘rat him out’. Their doing so showed how unmoral they were. For if they truly loved, and trusted, in the Lord (YHVH) they would have known He was against Saul, and for David, and would not have been scared to help a righteous man fleeing for his life. But that’s why those in the city of Keilah ‘ratted’ David out, *even though he saved them* from the Philistines (1 Sam 1:1-5) when their own army would not. And that’s also why the Ziphites ratted David out to Saul when he was dwelling in a mountain near to them (1 Sam 23:13-25). But the Lord indeed hearkened to David’s prayers to turn away those who were seeking his life because, after David fled from the mountain of Ziph (and went to the wilderness of Moan, 1 Sam 23:24), we’re told that, just as Saul and his army (as well as the Ziphites) surrounded David and his men, Saul got news that the Philistines had invaded Israel. So, Saul had to stop chasing David so he could go fight the Philistines, who were a *real* threat to Israel. That allowed David and his men to flee to the strong holds of En-gedi (1 Sam 23:26-29). So, Saul’s quest to kill David was really *stupid* (and selfish) because he was wasting precious time, men and resources fighting someone who really *wasn’t* an enemy while allowing the Philistines (who were a *real* enemy) to plunder the citizens of his own country. Saul truly was the epitome of a fool, for he was both silly *and stupid* (#3684). Wasting men and resources (along with precious time) to hunt after someone who truly posed no threat to you is stupid, especially when you have a real enemy that really does want to take over your country.

So, it’s not surprising there are many Psalms where David spoke of these trying times. And he often made similar requests as are in this Psalm. In Ps 38:12 he said: *They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long*. Indeed, there were many things spoken about David, and his men, that were not real. They were simply made up lies. That’s why David again asked in Ps 40:14 for the Lord to *let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil*. Not only was Saul trying to kill him physically, he was also destroying David’s ‘good name’. David had been a mighty warrior who

had a famous name due to his many victories in war for Israel. We're told that, not only did the whole nation respect him, but even Saul's own family and court loved him as well (1 Sam 18). Many other Psalms thus speak of similar pleas by David to the Lord (Ps 54:1-5, Ps 63:1, 9-11, Ps 70:2 and more). So, it's not at all hard to understand *why* David asks this of the Lord; and we know that the Lord *did* help him, *and* deliver him, through all the hard times.

Remember also now, the Lord *could* have allowed David to be king much earlier in his life. Saul could have died in battle much sooner. But, that didn't happen. *Why?* Well, David was just a young man (around 17) when he first started fighting (when he took on Goliath, the giant) and therefore, he was very inexperienced both in fighting and in managing people. But the Lord allowed him to have experience being in the king's court (when he played the harp) to see how it worked and then experience fighting, even though the many years of running from Saul in the wilderness. As such, this matured David greatly. Hard times have a way of doing this. And it also strengthened his faith in the Lord. When people are blessed too much and too quickly, they have a tendency to begin to think they don't need God because they are so 'great and mighty'. Thus, by allowing David to go through hard times (for years), the Lord was developing David into a very good king. And though he sinned in his later years, the lessons from his early years taught him that it's better to love and serve the Lord wholeheartedly than to rebel against Him. Thus, David repented wholeheartedly and his kingdom was restored to him (after several rebellions). And so, it was the hard times that developed David into a person who would be a fiercely faithful servant of the Lord. It's worth noting that most of the kings of Israel (and Judah) did *not* repent when the Lord sent prophets to them, as David did. This in itself speaks volumes of David's love, and loyalty, to our Heavenly Father.

And we should remember this in our own life too. We're not promised a 'bed of roses' for serving the Lord. While He certainly blesses those who love, serve and revere Him (and who depart from evil), He won't do so in a way that will cause us to turn away from Him. After all, money, power and prestige are very spiritually corrupting (1 Tim 6). And since that's what a king always gets, these hard times were very good for David. Likewise, they are good for us too. For the Lord *does* promise us wealth, power and prestige for serving Jesus Christ in the Millennium (Mth 13:44, 19:28-29; Rev 20:4-6); **but** we must be spiritually mature enough to handle this *without* being corrupted because the Lord will not allow corruption in his eternal government. That's why Jesus said that only those who are *humble* will serve with Him in the kingdom of God (Mth 18:1-4, 23:1-12, Lk 14:11, 18:14). We also must do, and teach, His Word (and not be hypocrites) in order to reign with Him (Mth 5:19). And the fact that Jesus Christ (God incarnate) came to earth and was *never* corrupted by anything (for He *never* sinned, Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5) – not even when Satan offered him the 'whole world', Mth 4, Lk 4) - shows that He *alone* is worthy to head the eternal kingdom of God (Rev 4:11, 5:9,12) as King of kings and Lord of lords *forevermore* (Rev 19:16). And, truly, the only reason we, who follow Jesus Christ, are able to be spiritually clean enough to serve in the Kingdom of God (with Jesus Christ heading the government) is because of the Holy Spirit (and the Word of God) *being inside of us* (John 15:3, 17:19; Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 6:11; Heb 10:10, 14; Jude 1, etc.). That's why we must not quench His Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19) nor reject the truth (John 3:19-21, 4:23-24, 8:45-47; 2

Thess 2:10-13; 2 Tim 4:3-4; Heb 10:26, ect.). Truly, ***the only good ‘thing’ in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit***. And that’s what makes us fit, and able, to serve in the Kingdom of God (Jude 24, Eph 3:20, Heb 7:25). But, those who don’t repent, remain humble, and serve Jesus Christ will indeed be confounded, put to shame and ‘turned back’ by Jesus Christ when He returns to take over the world, for He will *not* allow wicked, or ‘workers of iniquity’, into His eternal kingdom (Mth 7:21-23).

Psalm 35

*5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the **angel of the LORD** chase them.*

Again, David is still speaking of those who were literally seeking to kill him and destroy his ‘good name’ (defame his character and family name) in the process. So, he now asks the Lord to let them be as ‘chaff’ is before the wind. David referred to the chaff also in Psalms 1:4 when he stated that the ungodly are *like the chaff which the wind driveth away*. [For a refresher, check out this link: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/12]. We have to know a bit about agriculture to understand what’s he’s asking for here. The ‘chaff’ is the husk that covers grain. While it’s needed while the grain is growing (for protection), when harvest time comes it is separated from the wheat (or any grain with a husk) because, once the wheat is ready for harvest, the husk (chaff) *is utterly useless. It’s of no value anymore*. It’s also important to understand how the husk is removed from the wheat berry. Before modern technology, they used to fan it with hand held fans to *blow the chaff away*, while the berries (the usefully part) would remain on the ground. *That’s* why God uses this analogy to explain the wicked. Not only are the wicked useless (to God) but they will also be ‘fanned’ away and burned in the ‘lake of fire’ at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20). The Word of God uses this analogy many times: Isa 5:20-24, Isa 33:10-12, Jer 23:26-30 and Matt 3:7-12 just to name a few. So, David is asking that his enemies be removed far away from him, as chaff is blown far away from the useful grain berries so that the wheat can be harvested and used for food. And, the Lord did do this for Him. Over and over again he helped David escape while causing Saul to have to stop chasing David, for one reason or another. Finally, Saul died in battle and thus, was no longer a threat to David. After that, the tribe of Judah made David their king and seven years later all of Israel made David their king. But, since this Psalm is also prophetic of the Lord, Jesus Christ, we know that He will do this also when He returns. As John the Babtist said...

16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

*17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and **will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.***

Luke 3:16-17

Jesus Christ will *thoroughly* clean His ‘threshing floor’ (the world) when He returns and gather the wicked (chaff) separate from the good wheat berries (the righteous) when He returns (Isa 24:17-23, Matt 13:47-50, Matt 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, Matt 13:40-42, Rev 20:1-5). And Jesus

also explained that, not only will the chaff (the useless ‘workers of iniquity’, Mth 7:21-23) be burnt in the fire (Heb 12:29) when He returns, but so will the ‘tares’, who claim they are Jews but are not, (Rev 2:9, 3:9). [Learn more in the special study on the **Parable of the Tares** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>]. Jesus also summarized this well in another parable in Matthew 13...

*47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:
48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.
49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,
50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*
Matt 13:47-50

So, indeed, those who do wickedly and ‘work iniquity’ will be as ‘chaff before the wind’. And that’s because the angel of the Lord *will* chase them, *and* devour them, as chaff in the fire - just as He did for Israel when He led them out of Egypt (Ex 14:9-31), just as He did to the heathen who lived in the Promise Land (Ex 23:20-23; Deut 9:1-6; Josh 5:13-15, 6:12-21, 10:1-14; Judg 4:4-24, 7:15-25; 1 Sam 7:7-13; 2 Kings 7:3-11, 19:32-37; 2 Chron 13:7-20, 14:9-15, 20:12-30, 32:16-22) including David’s enemies (2 Sam 5:17-25). [Learn more in the special study on **Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485>]. Indeed, we’re told this in many places: Isa 5:24, 33:11, 40:24, 41:2, 47:14, Obadiah 18, Nah 1:10, Mal 4:11, just to name a few. And in 1 Cor 3:9-17 Paul also explained that our works will be revealed by ‘fire’, *which is the Word of God* (John 12:48), which is indeed a *spiritual* fire (Jer 23:29, Heb 12:29) that will destroy all lies. Not only will the wicked and the ‘workers of iniquity’ be gathered at Jesus Christ’s return (and imprisoned) but, as 2 Thess 2:8 explains, Satan himself (who is that Wicked one) will be consumed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ’s mouth, which will ‘destroy’ all of Satan’s lies, propaganda and deception, ***because the truth will be made known to the whole world when Jesus Christ returns***. That’s why all the world will be filled with the glory (knowledge) of God (Isa 40:5; Hab 2:14; Num 14:21) when Jesus Christ returns, and also why all knees will bow to Him at that time too (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11; Phil 12:10). This is also explained clearly in 2 Thess 1:6-12 as well as Rev 19:11-21, among other places.

Psalm 35

*6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the **angel of the LORD** persecute them.*

David continues to explain what he wants the ‘angel of the Lord’ (Jesus Christ) to do to those persecuting Him. Their ‘way’ is their *course of life* or *mode of action* (#1870); and because they do evil, their ‘way’ is indeed very dark (#2822, darkness; figuratively, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness) and slippery (#2519, a treacherous spot). As Prov 4:19 says, *the way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble*. This is because they hate the truth and refuse to accept it (John 3:19-21). And, as He said in Jer 23:11-12: *For both prophet*

and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD. Therefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation [judgment], saith the LORD. And this is because, while *God judgeth the righteous*, He is *angry with the wicked every day* (Ps 7:11). Ps 10:4-11 also gives a very vivid depiction of the wicked, among many other places (Isa 5, Jer 23, etc.). And therefore, the Lord will (and does) **persecute** them, which means **to run after with hostile intent** (#7291). As Jesus warned...

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

*37 For **by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.***
Matt 12:30-37

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

*10 **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.*

Rev 13:9-10

Again, the evil words, and works, of the wicked will come back to ‘haunt them’ (as we say today). They who try to enslave the entire world will be arrested and imprisoned (Isa 24:22, Rev 20:1-3) and those who kill with the sword (spiritually kill with deception and lies) will be killed with the sword (the Word of God, Eph 6:17, Rev 1:16, 2:16, 19:15, 21).

Another interesting point to this 6th verse here in Psalm 35 that: in the last chapter (34:7) David pointed out that *the angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them* but here he asks that *the **angel of the LORD** persecute the wicked*. So, this points out, yet again, the timeless truth that, because the Lord *loveth righteousness and judgment* (Ps 33:5), He makes sure that the wicked are punished and the righteous are rewarded with good things. And even though it seems like the wicked are getting away with their evil *now*, that’s simply not true. They are truly only digging their own hole into which they will fall (Ps 7:15, 9:15). Another Psalm expresses this point rather beautifully...

12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

*13 That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, **until the pit be digged for the wicked.***

14 For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

*15 But **judgment shall return unto righteousness**: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.*

16 Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?

*17 **Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence** (i.e. died).*

Ps 94:12-17

Psalms 37 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/297>] is another great Psalm to read when you begin to think the wicked are getting ahead in the world. It may seem like that *now*, but that's truly not so. For all things will be made right when Jesus Christ returns. And the Lord (YHWH) is only putting up with their wickedness **until** His plan of salvation is complete. All of His children *must* have the opportunity to hear the truth and repent (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19, Rev 11) *before* Jesus Christ will return. So, while hard times are coming (yea, are even 'at the door') we must remember to be patient. As Paul said in Rom 8:24-25: *For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.* Even though we have not yet obtained eternal life, and even though we have not yet seen the wicked conquered by Jesus Christ, that doesn't mean it's not coming. As Heb 11:1 says: *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* The word '**substance**' here means the **essence** or **assurance** of things hoped for (#5287) and the word '**evidence**' means the proof or conviction (#1650) of things not seen. So, just because it seems like the wicked get away with sin, *we must not resort to sinning ourselves*; for indeed, all unrepentant sin will be punished, whether it be when you die, or when Jesus Christ returns.

And the wicked really do not 'get ahead' in the long run. Not only will they *never* have peace of mind but they are likely suffering in many ways we do not see. As Rom 8:6 says: *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* So, even though we have to endure persecutions for doing what's right, and serving Jesus Christ, He rewards our love, faithfulness and service to Him by giving us peace of mind that is truly worth more than all earthly riches put together (Phil 4:7, Isa 26:3-4, Prov 8:11). The 'angel of the Lord' (Jesus Christ) will thus always give mercy, grace and protection for the righteous (as He did for David) while punishing the wicked. As Ps 11:6 reminds us: *upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.* But our 'cup' is to inherit the Lord (Ps 16:5), for He will show us the 'path of life' when we humbly, and faithfully serve Him. And truly, being in His presence (having His Holy Spirit with us) is the fulness of joy and being at His right hand (a part of the Body of Christ) will bring pleasures forevermore (Ps 16:11).

Psalm 35

7 For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

David now points out to the Lord why he thinks he deserves the things he's been asking for in the prior six verses. He has been persecuted, truly, *without a cause*. Remember, David did not ever betray Saul, or his nation. He actually helped those in his nation (by fighting the Philistines who were persecuting Israel) and he even spared Saul's life. So, indeed, they did make pits for him to fall in, even to the destroying of his own life and his good name (defaming his character) 'without a cause'. And this is what happened to Jesus Christ as well. Those who hated Jesus did (without a righteous cause) defame His character when they brought false accusations and false witnesses against Him (Mth 26:59-68), which they later also did to His apostles (Acts 6:13-14,

23, 26, 1 Cor 15:15). And Rev 12:10 tells us Satan is *still* accusing the Lord's faithful servants, even in heaven; and the book of Job tells us he *always* has been. Thus, there is nothing new in regards to how people who love and serve God are treated by the wicked (Ecc 1:9). Those who don't go along with the false 'traditions of man' – that make void God's truth (Mth 15, Mk 7) – are accused (falsely) of twisting God's Word. But, in actuality, it's those who hold to (and teach) the 'traditions of man' who are twisting God's Word. And they simply don't like to be exposed (John 3:19-21). But they will be, and judgment for those claiming to be represent God (they claim to teach it) will be judged *first*, as Peter warns...

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

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

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

1 Peter 4:17-19

Again, Peter wisely advises us to 'commit' the 'keeping' of our soul (meaning to deposit our soul to Him by trusting in His protection #3908) to Jesus Christ (our intercessor, Rom 8) because our Heavenly Father is a faithful Creator. He won't let Satan destroy those who love, serve and revere Him, no matter how dire our situation seems. As Psalms 37 says...

1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

*3 **Trust in the LORD, and do good;** so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

*6 And **he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.***

Ps 37:1-6

So, even though the wicked think they are digging a hole for us, and will be able to cast us down into it, and cover it with soil when they get a worldwide government – truly, what they are doing is digging *their own grave!* (Ps 7:15, Ps 57:6, Ps 94:13).

Psalm 35

8 Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

Sticking with the same theme, David now asks the Lord to let '**destruction**' (*devastation* or a *tempest*, #7722) come upon him (the wicked who seek him harm) '**unawares**' (*at a time he doesn't know*, #3808, 3045). Again, this reveals the timeless truth that **the wicked will be 'brought down' by their own wicked words and works**. In our heavenly Father's Word, we're repeatedly assured that, 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, destruction will come upon them unawares and they'll fall into the very snares, nets and pits they've dug for the righteous. This is why Jesus warns us who love and serve Him...

*42 **Watch therefore:** for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

*46 **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.***

*47 Verily I say unto you, That **he shall make him ruler over all his goods.***

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

*50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day **when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of.***

51 And shall cut him asunder [with His sharp sword of His mouth], and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [Mth 7:21-23]

Matt 24:42-51

He reiterates this in Luke...

*34 And **take heed to yourselves, lest at any time** your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

*35 **For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.***

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

And the Revelations...

*Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.***

Rev 3:3

*Behold, **I come as a thief.** Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

Rev 16:15

So, Jesus Christ clearly doesn't want those who love and serve Him to be caught unawares for, the only reason this would happen is if they lose focus on serving Him and begin to love the ways of the world (James 4:4). And, just as a thief is caught by surprise when he's trying to break into a house at night, so too will all the wicked people on the world be caught by surprise when they are setting up a wicked world government with Satan as the king. *Why* will most people (even many who claim to be Christian, Mth 7:21-23) be surprised? Because they'll think that Satan IS the Messiah (Jesus Christ)! So, when the true Jesus Christ appears 'suddenly' they will indeed be caught by surprise, just as a dirty thief. And truly, those who are trying to create a world government without Jesus Christ (as Ps 2 spoke of) *are* thieves. They are trying to steal God's inheritance (Isa 5, Mth 21:28-46). And Paul, of course, explains this very well...

*1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**
3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
4 **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**
5 **Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**
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,**
1 Thess 5:1-9*

Paul warns that the day of the Lord (when Jesus Christ returns) will be like a thief in the night. Again, that's because most people will think Satan is Jesus Christ who has returned to 'save' the world from all its problems. The only problem is that it's the Devil (Satan) himself! And anyone who worships Satan as though he's God (the Messiah) and participates in his wicked government (the beast, Rev 13) will thus be unfit to serve in Jesus Christ's eternal government, let alone to receive eternal life (Rev 20) because Jesus' government will be totally incorruptible so no people who are spiritually corrupted can be a part of it. That's why He'll tell many who claim to have served Him to get away from them; it's because they truly were 'workers of iniquity' (Mth 7:21-23). This is why Jesus warns us over and over to 'take heed' [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/943>] and to learn the **parable of the fig tree** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/295>], so we *prepare ourselves* spiritually, mentally and emotionally for the great tribulation - when Satan comes to earth (with his many fallen angels) to deceive the world into trying to 'steal' this earth (God's vineyard, His own inheritance) from Him. We *can't* be partakers with those who are evil and 'workers of iniquity' if we want to obtain eternal life and inherit the kingdom of God. That's also why David urged us to 'depart from evil and do good' in the last chapter (Ps 34:14). Therefore, let's remember...

*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:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:1-7

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

AMEN.