

Part 2 – A Very Tempestuous and Devouring Fire

In part 1 we learned that this Psalm was either written by, or given to Asaph, who was a chief musician at that time. And the Psalmist began the Psalm by explaining how the Mighty God our Lord, Yehovah (YHVH) ‘broke silence’ by calling all the earth – from the rising of the sun to the going down (meaning from the east to the west) – to hear what He has to say. The Psalmist then spoke of how, our God (who is the Supreme God, our Creator) shines out of Zion with the ‘perfection of beauty’. Zion is the mountain in Jerusalem where David lived after he and his army took the city and it’s also where he established the capital of Israel. And David later moved the Ark of the Covenant to Zion so that the center of worship would be centralized in Israel’s capital, Jerusalem. So, because the Ark of the Covenant was in Zion, that’s why the Psalmist said God shined from there. We also learned of the times the Lord (YHVH) has manifested His physical glory through a cloud and also through fire. And He did so even when Solomon and Israel were celebrating the dedication of the permanent Temple they built for the Lord in Zion, Jerusalem. Thus, the Lord (YHVH) did indeed shine in the ‘perfection of beauty’ out of Zion when He approved the Temple His people built Him by sending His cloud into the Temple and then consuming the sacrifices the people gave Him with His glorious fire. So, the Psalmist literally saw the ‘perfection’ of the Lord’s beauty when seeing that awesome cloud and amazing power of fire that came from no natural source, but from God Himself. Indeed, our Heavenly Father is a ‘consuming fire’ and His fire can either warm our hearts (when we love and obey Him) or ‘burn us’ inside when we are disobeying Him. Yet, His fire can also literally consume things (as the sacrifices... or people) just as He can also literally warm and protect us as His fire by night did for Israel when they were wandering in the wilderness. So, this is the thought we pick up with in this great Psalm which speaks of Israel’s Redeemer ‘breaking silence’...

Psalm 50

3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

The words ‘Our God’ are the ‘title’ ***Elohiym*** (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. But, why would the Psalmist say that He ‘shall come’ and ‘not keep silence’? Where is God coming from and why is He going to ‘break silence’? Well, we should ask ourselves ***why*** He would ‘keep silent’. The Scriptures clearly tell us that our Heavenly Father ‘keeps silent’ (in that He won’t help us when we cry to Him for help) when we are *willfully* sinning against Him; meaning, we’re not trying *sincerely* to obey Him. Ps 66:18 says that if we regard (see, #7200) iniquity (vanity, wickedness; specifically, an idol, #205) in our heart, *the Lord (YHVH) won’t hear us*. Ezek 14:3-8 also tells us that if we keep idols in our heart, and refuse to get rid of our iniquity (sins and corrupt spirit), then He won’t hear us. In fact, He’ll ‘work’ against us (also called chastisement). Isa 59:1-4 also tells us that our Heavenly Father is able to help us out of all troubles but, when we embrace sin as a lifestyle (don’t try to kick our sins out and obey Him) then He doesn’t hear us. It is our sins (and idols in our heart) that separate us from our Heavenly Father. Which means, *it’s our own fault* for Him ‘keeping silent’ when we call upon Him for help. Prov 1:22-33 tells us the same thing, as does the ‘Song of Moses’ in Deut 32 among many

other Scriptures. So, when our Heavenly Father is ready to ‘break silence’ that means He’s not only ready to speak, but He’s also *ready to act*. Hence the reason this Psalm (and the next few) speak about Israel’s Redeemer. And, when we look to our Lord and Jesus Christ, we see that He too kept silent, during His first Advent, when He was put on trial (Matt 27:11-14). Jesus did not come to earth the first time to take vengeance; rather, He came to teach the truth and pay for the sins of mankind (whomsoever would believe upon Him, that is). Therefore, He did not say anything in His defense because it was His time to die and He *willingly* did so [learn just how much God loves us - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>]. **But**, there is a soon coming day when Jesus Christ **will** return to earth and He sure is not going to keep silent anymore. And that’s why the later part of this 3rd verse in Psalm 50 says that *a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him*. The word ‘**tempestuous**’ here means **vehemence**, i.e. (with or without preposition) **vehemently**; by implication, **wholly, speedily** (#3966). There are *so many* Scriptures, especially in the Old Testament, that speak of the fire that’s soon to come at Jesus’ Second Advent. For example...

27 Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

*28 And **his breath, as an overflowing stream**, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.*

29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

*30 And **the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.***

*31 For **through the voice of the LORD** shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.*

32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.

*33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; **the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.***

Isa 30:27-33

We’ve learned of the arrogance and blasphemies of the Assyrian’s in the past few Psalms when Hezekiah was praying the Lord would deliver them from the Assyrians who came up to besiege Jerusalem. And the Lord (YHVH) did indeed save Jerusalem at that time. And years later He brought the Babylonians upon Assyria, as punishment for their wickedness. He then brought the Medes and Persians upon Babylon, for their wickedness. But we should understand that, the Assyrian king is also a type of Satan himself (Isa 14, Ezek 31) as was the king of Babylon (Jer 51, Rev 18) as is even Tyre/Trus (Ezek 28). So, while the Scriptures speak to the Assyrian and Babylon kings, *they are still prophetic* because they are types for what will happen to Satan himself when Jesus Christ returns. And we see that the very breath of Jesus Christ is likened to

fire; and it'll burn Satan *to the core*. As Paul wrote in 2 Thess 2:8, the wicked one (Satan) will be consumed with the Spirit of Jesus' mouth and be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus' Second Advent. Rev 20:1-3 also depicts this rather well when it tells us Satan will be arrested by a mighty angel of the Lord when Jesus Christ returns and thrown in a pit for the entire Millennium. Such a thing will doubtlessly be *beyond humiliating* for the lying 'snake' who came to earth claiming to be God and worked to get the whole world to worship him (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2). But, there are still *many* more Old Testament Scriptures that speak of the fire Jesus Christ will bring with Him when He returns. For another example, ...

10 Now will I rise, saith the LORD; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself.
11 Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you.
12 And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.
Isa 33:10-12

The thorns being burned in the fire should remind you of a parable Jesus gave in Mth 13. Thankfully, He also gave us the explanation of it...

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
*38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but **the tares are the children of the wicked one;***
39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.
41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
Mth 13:37-42

So, while our Heavenly Father puts up with the wicked ones 'working iniquity' (2 Thess 2:7) right now, there's coming a time that He 'shall come' and 'not keep silence' anymore. It was this way back in the days when Israel was in the Promise Land and it's that way now again. As Eccl 1:9 says, *the thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun*. This is why, even though many of the prophecies have been fulfilled (at least in part) they are *still prophetic* for what is yet to come. As Isaiah also wrote...

*15 For, behold, the LORD will come **with fire**, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, **to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.***
16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many.
Isa 66:15-16

This is a very good depiction of what the return of Jesus Christ will be like. But there's many other Scriptures that speak of this too: Deut 32:22-29; Isa 10:16-17, 47:13-15; Jer 5:14, 23:29-30; Nah 1:2-9; Zeph 1:18 and Zech 14, just to name a few. And, in through the prophet Zephaniah, the Lord said...

*8 Therefore 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.***

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Zeph 3:8-9

So, while our Heavenly Father is still on His throne in heaven and sees all that's going on (as Ps 11 says), He does not always 'act' *because it's not time to*. He has a plan (of Salvation) and He's *going to keep it*. As a later Psalm will tell us, the Lord's enemies *must* be made His 'footstool' before He (as Jesus Christ) will return to pour out His 'cup of wrath' upon His enemies at the 'day of vengeance' (Ps 110:1). And, Isa 66:1 tells us that earth is God's footstool. That means, He (Jesus Christ) is waiting to come back to earth until Satan (and his fallen angels) are kicked out of heaven and given a 'short time' to try and deceive the whole world into worshiping them (Rev 12). In 2 Thess 2:3, Paul tells us that this is *exactly* what's 'holding up' the return of Jesus Christ. But after that, the Lord 'shall come' and shall not 'keep silence' anymore (Ps 50:3). Jesus also explained this really well in another parable in Mth 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

That's why John the Baptist prophesied of Jesus saying: *now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.* (Lk 3:9). And again, in verse 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 3:7-9

'Chaff' is separated from the grain after harvest. And, after harvest, it's of no use anymore.

That's exactly what the wicked ones are like. While they fulfill the negative part of God's plan of

salvation (which is to test His children to see if they will return to Him or want to follow Satan), then they'll be just as the chaff. And Jesus Himself said: *I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I if it be already kindled?* (Luke 12:49). We 'kindle' the 'fire' for our Heavenly Father by continuing to share *the truth* with His wayward children for His Word **is spiritual fire** (Jer 23:29). And again, in the Gospel of Luke Jesus said...

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

*29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom **it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.***

*30 **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.***

Luke 17:28-30

And in the Gospel of John, Jesus also said...

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

*6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and **men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.***

John 15:1-6

Yes indeed, many times Jesus Christ spoke of what this 3rd verse here in Psalm 50 speaks of. His Word *shall* be a devouring fire before Him, both in a physical sense, but even more so in a spiritual sense, as it is also written...

*13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.***

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Cor 3:13-15

When Jesus Christ returns and deposes all the wicked ones from power, everyone will be judged according to their works during their flesh life. As 2 Cor 5:10 says, *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.* Those who remained faithful to Jesus Christ will be given eternal life, at that time, and allowed to serve in His government. But those who did not

will indeed be ‘quenched by fire’ because God’s Word is a consuming fire (Heb 12:29) that burns the very core (heart and mind) of who refuse to accept the truth. And Paul also spoke of the fire that’s soon coming...

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.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:6-12

And Peter also spoke of this...

*7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.***

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall **melt with fervent heat**, the earth also and the works that are therein **shall be burned up.***

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall **melt with fervent heat?***

2 Peter 3:7-12 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Peter/277]

This doesn’t mean that heaven and earth will be totally destroyed but that they’ll be cleaned, with the fire, from the Lord via Jesus Christ’s return. All the pollution in the world will be cleansed by fire and all the wickedness will be too because the wicked ones will be gathered up, put in prison and not allowed to roam free while Jesus Christ and his ‘saints’ rule righteously for a thousand years, teaching those who want to learn, the difference between lies and truth (Ezek 44, Rev 20).

So, this Psalmist well knew that our Heavenly Father doesn't let the wicked ones to thrive forever. He allows them to rule the world *only* for the purpose of fulfilling the 'negative' part of His plan of Salvation. And that is, allowing people to experience the 'fruit' of their own choices. As Deut 28, 30 and Lev 26 (among other Scriptures) clearly warn us, we can choose to follow our Heavenly Father or Satan. This means we can choose to believe lies and sin or we can choose to believe truth and obey the Lord (YHVH). But, because the choice is ours, we must also experience the consequences from our decisions. And while this fact should scare the wicked ones, they are so usually fully deceived by Satan's lies they don't fear our Heavenly Father. This is a choice they will undoubtedly regret very much. Thankfully, there are some who have not fully sold their souls to the Devil and that's who we are to take God's Word to. And therefore, to us who do love and serve our Heavenly Father (Jesus Christ) the fact He is returning 'with fire' should not scare us. Because it is the Lord's devouring and tempestuous fire that saves us from the wicked ones, as the next few verses here in Psalms 50 will tell us...

Psalm 50

4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Now we see what the mighty God, Yehovah says when He 'shall come' and not be silent anymore. Ps 96:13 tells us that when Jesus Christ returns, He *shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth*. That's because *the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us* (Isa 33:22) from the wicked ones who are ruling the earth right now. Mic 4:3 also tells us that *He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more*. When Jesus Christ is the King of kings, no one will be able to war against each other anymore... or against Him for that matter! Remember what we just learned from the prophet Zephaniah?

*8 Therefore 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.***

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Zeph 3:8-9

Indeed, when Satan and his fallen angels are on earth, they will gather the kings of the earth together to try and fight against Jesus Christ's inevitable return. This will undoubtedly be in response to the witnessing of the two witnesses (Rev 11) and many others (Mth 10, Mk 13, Lk 21) who speak out against Satan, the fallen angels and their wicked 'beast' governing system they will be implementing in the last half of Satan's time on earth. The Revelations tells us about this time...

*12 And the **sixth angel** poured out his **vial** upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

*14 For **they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

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

*16 And **he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

*17 And the **seventh angel** poured out his **vial** into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.*

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

*19 And **the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell:** and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. [Rev 18, Jer 51]*

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

*21 And **there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent:** and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

Rev 16:12-21

Zech 14:1-12 also tells us about this, as does Rev 19:11-21, among many other Scriptures.

Simply put, when Jesus Christ returns to earth, He will be victorious. That is despite the fact that Satan and his angels fight against Michael and the other holy angels in heaven - they'll still loose as Rev 12:7-12 tells us - and also despite the fact that Satan and his fallen angels will gather the kings (leaders) of the earth to try and fight against Jesus Christ's imminent return. There is simply nothing, nor anyone, that can stop Jesus Christ returning and taking control over all that is in heaven and on earth. It **will** happen and *no one can stop it*. And when He does return, He WILL judge all the people of the earth, including His people, Israel. But always remember, beloved: judgment for those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ *is a time to look forward to*. As Isaiah 61:2 says, *that's* when we'll be comforted, because our judgment means rewards. That's why Jesus tells us, *when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh* (Luke 21:28). And Jesus also told us...

*10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

*12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: **for great is your reward in heaven:** for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Matt 5:10-12

Your rewards ‘in heaven’ *are great* **if** you follow Jesus Christ **faithfully**, even though you will also be persecuted by ungodly people for doing so. As Paul warned, *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution because evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived*. Our job is to *continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them* (2 Tim 3:12-14). This is why it’s so very important for you to study God’s Word yourself. Get a *Companion Bible* and *Strong’s Concordance*, if you are able to, and learn the figures of speech and how to look up the English translated words in the *Strong’s Concordance*, so you (for yourself) can see what the original Hebrew text *actually* says. It’s certainly ok to study with someone who actually teaches the Word of God; but learn how to follow up and *check out what they say* because that way, *you will know, for sure, what the truth really is*. That will also help you to *remember* the truth, so you can more easily share it with others, as the opportunities arise.

And studying God’s Word also is very spiritually cleansing. It helps us learn how to do the right thing in situations that otherwise seem hard to know how to handle. And always keep in mind the important fact (as Ps 49 pointed out) that life in the flesh is only temporary. Whether you are rich or poor *you are going to die* and you cannot take your earthly wealth with you when you go. Therefore, it’s much more important ‘store up’ your riches in heaven, by cleansing your heart and mind in God’s Word and learning to serve Jesus Christ. Find the gift(s) He’s given you (Mth 24:14-30) and *use them to the best of your ability*. Keeping your mind on what *really* matters (pleasing God) instead of on fleshly lusts (that don’t matter and harm us) is what will ensure that you are found pleasing to your heavenly Father when you die, or when Jesus Christ returns – which ever comes first!

So, as this beautiful Psalm has taught us, our might God, Yehovah (YHVH), will not always keep silent. He won’t always let the wicked ‘get ahead’. When He is ready to ‘rise up’ and return to this earth, it will be an *incredibly* hard thing for the wicked ones to experience, for they will be forced to face the truth that they’ve spend their entire lives (even since the first earth age for many) denying. But to those who love and serve our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) ***it will be a glorious day***. But, until that time comes, always remember that *the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished* (2 Peter 2:9)...

*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.*

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

*14 That thou **keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**:*

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

1 Tim 6:11-16

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

AMEN.