

Part 3 – By His Strength

In part 2 we learned that our Heavenly Father desires *all* of His children to worship Him. That's why all of mankind, regardless of their race, were able to come to Zion to worship the Lord (YHVH) if they wanted to. And while, back in David's day, the Gentiles were not allowed to get as close to the Tabernacle of God as the Israelites were, today all people can be *very* close to our Heavenly Father when they accept, and follow, Jesus Christ. For, when the Holy Spirit of God is *within us*, there is no way to be closer to God than that! We also saw David show his faith that, even though harsh words were spoken against him, he knew God has the ability to purge our transgressions; and therefore, the Lord (YHVH) would not let the rebellion against him succeed. And David also pointed out that those who God chooses to approach Him (who have repented for their sins and are trying to obey Him) are truly very happy (blessed) indeed because they'll be filled with the goodness of God's house, which are His blessings, both physically and (better yet) spiritually. And this is the thought we pick up with in this precious Psalm...

Psalms 65

5 By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:

The words '**By terrible things**' is truly a *terrible* translation! These words actually mean *to fear* or *to morally revere* (#3372) and is often translated as *fear* but also as *afraid*, *affright*, *dread* and even *reverence*. So, the word 'terrible' here really does not express true meaning of the Hebrew word. Now, the word '**righteousness**' means *the right* (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) *equity* or (figuratively) *prosperity* (#6664) and it comes from a prime root that means *to be, or make, right* (in a moral or forensic sense) (#6663). And then the words '**wilt thou answer**' mean *to eye* or (generally) *to heed*, i.e. *pay attention*; by implication, *to respond*; by extens. *to begin to speak*; specifically, *to sing, shout, testify, announce* (#6030). The *Moffet Bible's* translation seems a bit more befitting than the KJV does here – "**God of our victory, answering our prayers, with deeds of dread, so loyally, all ends of the earth come to rely on thee, and distant shores...**"

In other words, our Heavenly Father is the Savior for all of His creation... if they accept Him that is. Therefore, we should have respect for Him, and we believe what He tells us. As Heb 11:6 says: *without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. So, if we do fear (to do evil) and revere Him – as well as diligently seek Him – then He will indeed reward us for doing so. And this is not just something that applies to all Israel. As Peter so forthrightly said in Acts 10:34-35: *Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him*.

Now, David again uses the word ‘**God**’ which (as usual in the Psalms) is ‘**Elohiym**’ (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. And then the word ‘**salvation**’ here is *yesha`* (or *yesha`*) (#3468) and means **liberty, deliverance, prosperity**. And it comes from *yasha`* (#3467) which means **to be open, wide or free**, i.e. (by implication) **to be safe**; causatively, **to free or succor**. And this word is closely related to Jesus’ name. For Jesus (Iesous in the Greek, #2424) is a Greek word which is of Hebrew origin. It comes from the Hebrew word #3091 and is spelled as either Yehowshuwa` or Yehowshu` a (written in the English as Joshua). And it means *Yehovah saved*, which is why it comes from two Hebrew words: #3068 (Yehovah) and #3467 which means to be open, wide, free, safe or succored. This #3467 is the prime root of the word ‘salvation’ here in Ps 65:5. So, you can see why it’s so closely related to Jesus Christ’s name. For indeed, Jesus Christ is the One who God chose to be our Savior. And that’s simply because Jesus was God incarnated (John 1:1, 14; Heb 1:3, Col 1:15, etc.).

So, essentially, this first part of verse 5 is simply telling us that our Heavenly Father – who is the God of our salvation – will hear our prayers (so long as we’re diligently seeking Him and striving to obey Him) and (importantly) *answer* our prayers by punishing the wicked that oppress us, in His own way and time (which is always best). So, we *should* fear to disobey Him, *and also* have great reverence for Him *and* His Word (Laws). And then (after the semi-colon) David goes on to say (here in Ps 65:5) that God is the *confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea*. The word ‘**confidence**’ here is often translated as *trust* and it means a **refuge, security or assurance** (#4009). And the words ‘**of all the ends**’ are one Hebrew word that means **remote** (#7350). So, David is simply saying that – throughout the world - our Heavenly Father is the *only one* that we can truly (completely) trust in. No matter where we live on earth (or if we’re on the sea) He alone is our Savior (Isa 43:10-11, 45:21, 49:26, 60:16), **if** we are sincerely seeking Him and diligently striving to obey Him (Ps 33:18, 34:7, 85:9, 1-3:11-17, 111:5, 145:18-20).

Psalms 65

6 Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:

And now David begins to speak of God’s ‘credentials’ as our Creator. He alone has the strength (force, #3581) to ‘set fast’ (set up, establish, #3559) the mountains, for He is girded with power (force, valor #1369) as a man is girded with a belt. And we should understand what that meant to David. You see, back in David’s day (and in the days of Jesus as well) men often wore what we now call throbs (like men of the middle east do today). And therefore, in order to run quickly (and fight) they had to gird up their garment so that it was not hanging down and prohibiting their legs from moving quickly. So, David’s not simply speaking of putting a belt around one’s waist in this analogy; he’s talking about girding up the clothes. So, the implication is that: just as a man girding himself makes him more powerful (because he’s then able to fight) so too is our Heavenly Father girded with power. And therefore, things such as creating (and tearing down

too) mountains is not at all hard for Him. Because this world, and all that is therein (including us) are part of *His* creation - all will yield to Him, when He commands it. While many people are still rebelling against Him, that's only because *He allows it*. 2 Pt 3:9 tells us our Heavenly Father desires that all people repent, even though He knows not all will. So, that's why He is so longsuffering with mankind's rebellion. But it won't always be that way. For when Jesus returns, *all will bow a knee to Him* (Isa 45:23, Rom 14:11, Phil 2:10). For, just as God can set up, and cast down, physical mountains – so too can He do with nations and individuals. This is why, often in God's Word, mountains are even used to symbolize nations and hills are used to symbolize the smaller nations (Isa 2:2-3, 11:9; Jer 51:25; Ezek 17:22-23; Dan 2:35,44-45; Zeh 4:7, 8:3).

Psalm 65

7 Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

David continues to speak of God's 'credentials', as our Creator, by pointing out His power over His creation. And God can even 'stilleth' (pacify, #7623) the noise (uproar of the rushing, #7588) of the seas, and their waves. And He can even stilleth the 'tumult' (noise, tumult, disquietude, crowd, #1995) of the people (peoples of a nation or a community, #3816). Of course, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (God incarnate), provided a very good example of this for us...

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

*26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and **there was a great calm**.*

*27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey him!***

Matt 8:23-27

You can find this same account documented also in Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25. And in Matt 14:22-33 we're told of another time that the sea and waves had no power over Jesus Christ. For, while the disciple's ship was tossed with the waves, Jesus was literally walking on the sea towards them – the terrible winds (and waves) had absolutely no effect on Him! And not only that, Peter was also able to walk on the water... until he lost focus on Jesus and began to pay attention to the boisterous winds and waves, which is a *really* good lesson for us. We should not lose focus on Jesus Christ (or God's Word) no matter how 'boisterous' people's 'windy' mouths become. However, Peter did the right thing and called out to Jesus for help, which (of course) Jesus did give him. And when they got into the ship, the wind *ceased*. Several other Psalms also speak about God's power over His creation, specifically the wind and the seas (Ps 89:8-11, Ps

107:21-27). And, of course, twice did our Heavenly Father literally part the waters for Israel. Not only when they were coming out of Egypt (Ex 14:13-31) but also when they were entering the Promise Land (Josh 3:11-17). And thus, in Isa 51:15 our Heavenly Father said: *I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.* Further, there are many times that the wind, waves and the boisterous sea are used symbolically in God's Word for worldly powers, in one form or another (2 Sam 22:5, Isa 48:18, Jer 51:54-56, Ezek 26:3, Jude 10-13). This shows us that, even the mightiest nations are *nothing* compared to our Heavenly Father. As it is written...

*15 Behold, **the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.***

16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

18 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Isa 40:15-18

So, there's nothing that our Heavenly Father does not have power (and control) over. Not the earthly elements and not mankind...

Psalm 65

8 They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

The word '**tokens**' here means a **signal**, such as a flag, **beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence**, etc. (#226) – so it could even be translated as a *miracle* (which it has been in some places). We saw an example of this when Israel was about to invade Jericho. They sent two men into the city to spy it out and one woman, Rahab, recognized they were spies. But, instead of ratting on them, she brought them into her house and *protected* them. What she said is very important to our point here in this study...

*9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that **all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.***

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

Josh 2:9-14

The heathen nations heard of the Lord's (YHVH) mighty works that He did for Israel. Not only in drying up the Red Sea for them but also in giving them the victory over several heathen nations Israel fought, even before they went into the Promise Land (because those nations chose to fight against Israel, and not let them pass through their land safely). So, what David is saying is that: our Heavenly Father's mighty works (miracles) had gotten around (as word of mouth always does) to people who lived far away; and many of them even feared Israel's God because of the miracles He did. And then (here in Ps 65:8) David also wrote that: *thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice*. The word '**outgoings**' means **a going forth** (#4161). Again the Moffet Bible's translation provides some help understanding this. For it says: **"lands of sunrise and sunset sing joyfully of thee"**. So, from the East to the West our Heavenly Father has full control of His creation. There is no part of the Earth that our Heavenly Father doesn't see what's going on and there's no part of the earth that He does not have ultimate control over. And all His children, who do fear and revere Him, *do rejoice* at His great power, *especially* when He punishes the wicked ones. And, as Rom 8:19-22 points out, even the creation (the earth itself and the animals therein) longs for the 'manifestation of the sons of God'. This is referring to Jesus Christ's return. For at that time the earth will be cleansed and order restored to the earth. And it's not hard to understand why even the creation longs for this; there's so much pollution in the world that hurts the earth and the animals. When Jesus Christ (God incarnate) returns, He will clean things up again so that even God's creation will rejoice that order is finally restored back to the earth.

Psalm 65

9 Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

David now speaks how our Heavenly Father cares for the earth, which is His creation. While God did made Adam to till the ground, and the other races to care for the animals, there are many parts of the earth that mankind doesn't ever go to. Yet, God still takes care of the animals there and makes vegetation grow. As Jesus said in Matt 10:29-31, not even one sparrow (a small and very numerous bird) doesn't even die without our Heavenly Father knowing about it. Jesus' point was that our Heavenly Father cares *even more* about us than the sparrows, so we should not worry because He knows what's going on *everywhere* in the earth. And our Heavenly Father is

the one who gives us ‘rain in due season’ when we are obeying Him. He also causes our crops to grow. If you have ever done any gardening, you’ll know that rain from above is far better than irrigating your garden. The water that comes from above is much better than the water that comes from below, which is quite an appropriate analogy for the spiritual water (truth, John 4, 7:39) that comes from our Heavenly Father being far superior to man’s ‘water’ (i.e. ‘traditions of man’). And in eternity, we’re also promised a wonderful (and eternal) water source...

*1 And he shewed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

*2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Rev 22:1-4

So, just as our Heavenly Father has always provided for His creation, so will He forever. As Ps 145:15-16 (another Psalm of David) says: *The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.* It’s also good to remember the promises that God gave Israel for obeying Him. For, He promised to give them ‘rain in due season’ when they were in the Promise Land IF they obeyed Him (Lev 26:4-5). And Moses reiterated this Promise to them shortly before he died. But, he also warned Israel not to go a whoring after false gods and idols because this is what would cause the Lord (YHWH) to cut off the ‘rain in due season’ that they needed to flourish in the Promise Land (Deut 11:14-21). And, of course, this is symbolic of the spiritual truth we need to live forever. As Amos 8:11 warns, the days would come when God would send a famine in the land. But, not a famine for bread or thirst for water – but *a famine for hearing the words of the Lord*. Truly, we are in that famine today. Therefore, we should pray for the spiritual ‘latter rain’ that we need to mature into strong (and faithful) servants of Jesus Christ – so we can endure the hard times that are coming. For, just as plants need latter rain to help them bud and produce fruit, so too do we need spiritual truth to help us mature enough to produce good *spiritual* fruit – both within our own self *and* with others, by sharing the truth with those who are eager to hear it (Joel 2:23, Zech 10:1). And so, as James so rightly reminds us...

*7 **Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

*8 **Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh**.*

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:7-11

So, it is good for us to remember the beautiful truths that our Heavenly Father's Word teaches us. He is in full control of all His creation. He only allows the wicked to remain (and even control things on earth) simply to fulfil the negative part of His Plan of Salvation – which is testing His children to separate the ones who are salvageable from the ones who are incorrigible. And, when this is done, He will send Jesus Christ back to the earth to reap both the good and the bad, as Scriptures such as Mth 21:28-44 and Rev 14:15-20 teach us. So, let's remember...

*7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

*9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for **in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Gal 6:7-10

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

AMEN.