

Part 3 – Though the Enemy Roars

In part 2 we learned about the perpetual desolations that came upon Jerusalem, the Temple and God's people, Israel, as well as the wickedness that the enemy did in the sanctuary. The Psalmist was likely writing about what he saw happen when the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem, took the people away captive, looted and burned the city (including the Temple) and even broke down the walls. And, as painful as this was for the Psalmist to see, the prophetic fulfillment of this verse will be *far worse*, as Jesus Himself warned in Mth 24:21. For, the *future* 'desolation of abomination' (Dan 9:27, Mth 24:15, Mk 13:15, Lk 21:20) is *not* Jerusalem, the Temple or the people being *physically* invaded, burned and taken captive. No, the soon to come 'desolation of abomination' is when God's 'arch enemy' – who is Satan himself – comes to earth and fools the world into worshipping him as though he is God (2 Thess 2:3-4, Rev 13:5-6). Far worse than the Babylonians invading, looting and burning the Holy Temple (Sanctuary) is Satan *stealing the hearts and minds of God's children* through his deceptive lies, laced with flatteries (Dan 11:21,32; 2 Thess 2:3-4, 9-12; Rev 12:15, 13:5-7) so that they *willingly* let him set himself up as the 'Savior' of the world (king of kings) in the Temple in Jerusalem and worship him as though he were God Almighty. So, now that we've seen just how horrible the desolations that the wicked *have* done, and *will do*, in Jerusalem, let's see what else this Psalmist is lamenting over...

Psalms 74

4 Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs.

The words '**thine enemies**' are actually one Hebrew word that means **to cramp** (#6887) and can be used literally or figuratively, transitive or intransitive and has been *translated many ways* in the KJV - adversary, (be in) afflict (-ion), beseege, bind (up), (be in, bring) distress, enemy, narrower, oppress, pangs, shut up, be in a strait (trouble), vex. And the word '**roar**' means to **rumble** or **moan** (#7580) while the word '**midst**' means **the nearest part**, i.e. **the center**, whether literal, figurative or adverbial (especially with preposition) (#7130). And then the word '**congregations**' means **an appointment**, i.e. **a fixed time or season**; specifically, **a festival**; conventionally **a year**; by implication, **an assembly** (as convened for a definite purpose); technically **the congregation**; by extension, **the place of meeting**; also a **signal** (as appointed beforehand) (#4150). And the words '**set up**' mean **to put** (used in a great variety of applications, literal, figurative, inferentially, and elliptically, #7760). And then the words '**ensigns**' and '**signs**' both mean **a signal** (literally or figuratively), as a **flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence**, etc. (#226).

In other words, the enemy was not only doing wickedly (ruining) in the Temple (their place of worship back then) but they also would not allow the people to govern themselves anymore. They could not keep their own standards (flags and other symbols of national identity) nor even to have their own meetings. So, not only were their physical houses and Temple being destroyed,

so was their ‘national identity’ being eroded by the enemy. And this is not too hard to understand because we are witnessing the same thing happen to the Christian nations. They are not only being invaded by masses of ‘immigrants’ who are supposedly ‘refuges’, but the foundation of their Christian heritage is being dismantled, at an alarming rate, *by their very own politicians* who are adamant that we all need to give up our own national identities and submit to their idea of a global governance. Instead of being a citizen to a nation, they want us to be citizens of a world government. And this truly is only laying the ground work for the coming *false* Messiah (Satan himself) who will mandate that all people stop worshipping their own gods and idols and, instead, worship *him*. We learned quite a bit of this in the last chapter but it’s important to understand that the ‘abomination of desolation’ is truly being ‘set up’ right now, and this process has been ongoing for some time now.

And what’s even worse than wicked people trying to steal our national identity as Christian nations, is that the ‘enemy’ is also infiltrating the Churches. For many Churches have stopped teaching God’s Word, in leu of, ‘traditions of man’ *that make void the Word of God* – something that had also happened in Jesus’ day and age (Mth 15, Mk 7). So, historically, it was a complete take over. Not only desolating (ruining) Jerusalem, the Temple and the people’s houses but also their national identity. The reason for this was because of their rebelliousness and truly, that is why the Christian nations are also losing their Christian heritage. When we embrace traditions of man, instead of cleaving to the truth (i.e. God’s Word being taught ‘without spot’, 1 Tim 6:14), we willingly allow our Christian heritage to be stolen from us.

Psalms 74

5 A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.

6 But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers.

The Psalmist now recounts how men used to be famous (well known) for how well they could cut down thick trees; the implication looked back to when the Temple was being built. It took many men to build the Temple (and Solomon’s many other building endeavors) and so men became famous for how well they could cut down wood. But the point not to be overlooked is that their cutting down trees was to *build* something (not tear down), specifically, the Temple. But now, the Psalmist is saying that men (i.e. the enemy) are famous (well known) for how well they can break down ‘carved work’. The words ‘**break down**’ mean *to strike down*; by implication, *to hammer, stamp, conquer, disband* (1986) and the words ‘**carved work**’ mean *a sculpture* (in low or high relief or even intaglio) (#6603). And the words ‘**at once**’ mean *unitedly*, or *as a unit* (#3162). In other words, those who were destroying things (specially the Temple) in Jerusalem were now more famous (well known) than those who did the building of those things.

Yet again we see this happening, even today, for those who tear down Christianity are promoted above those who work to build up the Body of Christ. And, prophetically, it'll be *even worse*, as those who wholeheartedly embrace Satan as the Messiah will be even more zealous about 'breaking down' all other 'religions', *especially* Christianity. But, they'll do it by having a 'revival' of their own, and *that's* why it's so deceptive. However, there is a kind of 'breaking down' that is actually good. And that's when lies and deception are broken down (Ex 23:24, Deut 7:5, Hosea 10:2, Ezek 13:14). In fact, God allowed Israel (and then Judah) to be 'broken down' because their governments had become incorrigibly corrupt (Isa 1:4-6, 5:5, Jer 31:28, 45:4, etc.). So, as Eccl 3:3 says, there is a time to break down, and a time to build up – but we should make sure that we are doing so according to God's Will, and not our own (1 Pt 4:1-2).

Psalms 74

7 They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground.

Now the Psalmist confirms that the desolations of the enemy were indeed when they 'did wickedly' in the Sanctuary (vs 3) by looting and then *burning* it, just as 2 Kings 25:9 records. The word '**defiled**' here means, figuratively, **to profane** (#2490). So, burning the Temple of the Lord (Yehovah) defiled (profaned) it because, that is where God Himself 'put His name' when He accepted the Temple Solomon built as a place for Him to 'reside'. Of course, that's not where He dwelt *all* the time. As Ps 11 says, He is in His holy Temple; but sometimes He also rides around in an amazing flying vehicle where He has a 'mobile throne', as Ezekiel (1,10) and some of the Psalms (18, 68) document. But, God did choose the Temple Solomon built, as He told Solomon (in response to Solomon's prayer that God would accept the House he built for the Him) in 1 Kings 9:3, as it is written: *I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: **I have hallowed this house**, which thou hast built, **to put my name there for ever**; and **mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually***. However, God also warned...

*6 **But if** ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will **not** keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:*

*7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; **and this house**, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:*

*8 And **at this house**, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and **they shall say**, *Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, **and to this house**?**

*9 And they shall answer, **Because they forsook the LORD their God**, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: **therefore** hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.*

1 Kings 9:6-9

So, while the Lord (YHVH) did accept the Temple Solomon built – and hollowed it by His presence (1 Kings 8:10-11) – He also warned that if they would not obey Him then He would allow His ‘House’ (the Temple) to be destroyed and His people (Israel) to be cast out of the Promise Land. That was a promise He made good on because, despite the many prophets He sent to both the northern and southern kingdoms (of Israel and Judah) they would not, for the most part, repent and turn away from their idolatry and abominations. There were a few exceptions though; Hezekiah and Josiah tried really hard to turn the hearts of the people back to the one and only true God (YHVH); and they both also repaired the Temple, cleaned it (and the priests) and had a wonderful Passover Feast. But, for the most part, the kings of both the northern kingdom of Israel, and the southern kingdom of Judah (which broke apart after Solomon died), disobeyed God and (again) that’s why He allowed His House (even His Sanctuary) to be defiled and ultimately destroyed.

And, what’s interesting is that: in the *historical* sense, the desolation of abominations was by the physical ‘casting down’ (looting and then burning down) of God’s ‘dwelling place’ (the Temple, which had the Sanctuary in it). However, in the *prophetical* sense, it’ll be by the building up of it. But the purpose, as we have learned, will be so that the vilest (most wicked) entity (Satan himself) can defile (abide in) the Temple (and city, Jerusalem) by dwelling in a Temple (presumably one that will be built), in Zion, and claim he is ‘Messiah’. As Paul explained so very clearly, in 2 Thess 2:4, Satan (the ‘man of sin’, who is also the ‘son of perdition’) *will opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*. So, Satan being in the Temple that is build for God, and his claiming to be God, **will indeed defile** that Temple *and* the city *and* the hearts and minds of all who he deceives into worshiping him. And **that** is the ultimate defiling of God’s Sanctuary, *and* Name. As Rev 13:6 says, Satan will also *open his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven*. And he’ll do that while abiding in the very city that God has chosen to dwell in forever, Jerusalem (Ezek 16).

Yet, our Heavenly Father will allow this for the very same reason He allowed His Temple to be burned back in the days of this Psalmist. It is because His children won’t obey Him (again). He therefore sends those who reject truth (2 Thess 2:10) a ‘*strong delusion*’, which is simply Satan himself – **Satan IS the strong delusion** *because he is the one that deceives people into thinking he is God, when he’s really the most wicked entity in the universe*. The words ‘**strong delusion**’ (in 2 Thess 2:11) mean *efficiency* (“*energy*”) (#1753) and *fraudulence* or, a *straying from orthodoxy or piety* (#4106). Delusion has also been translated as *deceit, to deceive, delusion, error*. So, Satan will be allowed by God to put on quite an energetic ‘show’ to deceive the people on earth (who *want* to believe a lie *because* they’ve been rejecting truth) – again, that IS what the ‘strong delusion’ is. And God ‘sends’ this upon the world because it is His mighty angels who kick Satan out of heaven, to earth, as Rev 12:7-12 declares. And in 2 Thess 2:12, Paul tells us

why God does this: ***That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*** The word ‘**damned**’ here means ***to distinguish***, i.e. ***decide*** (mentally or judicially); by implication, ***to try, condemn or punish*** (#2919).

So, the purpose of letting Satan defile God’s favorite city, and even the spot in Zion where the Temple was, is to try (test) God’s children. Will they fall for the deception or not? And if they do, they *will* be judged and punished for their sins. They will be the ones who God’s ‘cup of wrath’ is poured out upon when Jesus Christ returns (2 Thess 1:6-9). But, as Jesus told us in Mth 24, Satan’s lies will *not* be allowed to flourish without a fight. And in John 17:15, Jesus prayed that God would *not* take His faithful followers *out* of the world (i.e. there’s **not** going to be a rapture to take the ‘Church’ out of the world: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>) but that God would keep (guard and protect) them from evil – which is to say, *specifically, from the evil one, Satan* himself. So, while Satan will be putting on a ‘big show’, and fooling most of the entire world into worshipping him (as though he were God, the “Savior” of the world), his lies won’t go without a fight. For God will have His own faithful servants on earth to fight against Satan’s lies; *that’s* why the ‘great tribulation’ *cannot* begin until the 144,000 of Israel (and many others of other races) are sealed. **The point of the sealing is to prepare His faithful servants for spiritual warfare, for they will fight (with *truth*) against Satan’s lies.** That’s why Paul tells us to put on the ‘Gospel Armor’ – so *ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil* (Eph 6:11). And *that* is why Jesus said that *the gospel must first be published among all nations* (Mark 13:10) **before** He will return. Matt 24:14 records it with more details: *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

So, fire (of lies and deception) will indeed be ‘cast’ into the Sanctuary (Rev 13:13) when Satan is standing there, pretending to be God. And his very evil spirit will defile God’s Holy place, in Jerusalem, as well as the hearts and minds of the people who he fools into worshipping him. The only difference is that: in this Psalmist time, the Sanctuary was looted and burnt to the ground while in the soon coming desolation, the Sanctuary will be *taken over*; by the enemy (Satan), for the purpose of *stealing the hearts of God’s children* so he can *enslave them* all to himself. And indeed, God’s Holy name will be ‘cast down’ too, as it is written: *there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven* (Rev 13:5-6). 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.* As another saying (of our time) goes: ‘he who does not know history is doomed to repeat it’...

8 They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.

The Psalmist is now recounting what the enemy was saying (thinking in their hearts) at the time. And how did he know what they ‘said in their heart’? Simply by looking at their actions (Mth 7:16-20). As we say today ‘actions speak louder than words’. And what were they doing? They were burning up all the ‘synagogues’ of God in the land. The word ‘**synagogues**’ is actually the *same* Hebrew word translated as ‘**congregations**’ back in verse 4. As we’ve learned, it can mean several things: from an *appointment*, i.e. *a fixed time or season* to *a festival* to a *year* or, by implication, *an assembly* (as convened for a definite purpose) or, technically, *the congregation* or, by extension, *the place of meeting*; also a *signal* (as appointed beforehand) (#4150). The likely meaning of here, and verse 4, is a meeting place or assembly. And this indeed happened when the Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem during their final invasion. As 2 Kings 25:10 says, *they burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire*. So, they got ride of the Temple, the king’s house, the houses of all those important people and yet all the houses of the ‘lesser’ people too. So, naturally, all the meeting places were also burnt as well. And it was because of this action that the Psalmist concluded that they were saying in their heart that they wanted to ‘destroy’ (rage, be violent, suppress, maltreat, #3238) them (those in Jerusalem) ‘together’, which means *as a unit* (#3162). In other words, there was no discrimination between classes of people. ‘Great or small’, *all* the people’s houses were burnt and ‘great or small’ all the meeting places were burnt as well. So, no more Temple, no more political meeting places, no more socializing, nothing – it was all destroyed and most all people (except the farmers to take care of the land) were carried away to Babylon, just as God had told them would happen (through Jeremiah).

Interestingly, the word ‘**land**’ here means *the earth at large or partitively a land* (a portion of land) (#776). So, the Psalmist is not saying all of the globe was burnt up, but everything in Jerusalem was. Keep this in mind while studying God’s Word, because the same word translated as ‘land’ here was also translated as ‘world’ in Genesis 9-10 - and has been grossly misinterpreted to mean the *entire* globe was flooded. In reality, God only had a flood to come upon a *portion* of the earth (where the fallen angels had mixed with the Adamic women), just as this Psalmist is saying that all the meeting places in the land were burned up in the ‘land’. Another interesting point about this verse is that the word ‘**God**’ here is ‘**El**’ (#410), which means the *Almighty* God who is *Omnipotent*; it shows His strength, power and might. So, the Psalmist is saying that all the meeting places (assemblies, could also be rendered as Churches) in the land (Jerusalem) were burnt up. The use of ‘El here shows that, while God is Almighty (omnipotent) He *allowed* this to happen. And we learned why already; *because* they (the majority of the people) would not repent for their sins and turn back to God with *all* their heart and obey Him. So, He allowed many desolations to come upon them, just as He warned...

And in the prophetic sense, you can count on Satan working hard to destroy all of the meeting places of those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ. Indeed, in Rev 12:15-17, we're told that the serpent (i.e. Satan, Rev 12:9, 20:9) *cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood*. And when this doesn't work (the woman is not deceived into worshipping him simply because of the flood of lies he spews out of his mouth) then (as vs 17 tells us) he (Satan - now called a dragon) *went to war* with 'the remnant of her seed', which are those who *keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*. So, indeed, Satan will try to spiritually destroy (with lies) those who remain faithful to the *true* God and the *true* Jesus Christ. And when his lies won't work on them (the woman), he'll wage all out war against them. This is likely during the latter half of Satan's time on earth, when he'll have full control over the earth. Yet, as the study on **Point A To Point B** [which you can study via this link: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>] explains, it won't matter how much Satan fights with God's faithful servants, because they are sealed (Rev 7), and they are *not* going to worship Satan, *no matter what happens to them*. They will wage spiritual war against Satan and, even though Satan will appear to win (even killing the two witnesses who are leading the rest), Jesus Christ will come and save His faithful servants from destruction before Satan can get to them. But, it won't be through any Rapture [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>]. It will be through Jesus Christ returning to *take over the earth*. At that time, Jesus will depose all the wicked ones (including Satan, Isa 24:22, Rev 20:1-3) and put His faithful followers in charge of the world (Rev 20:4-6). So, even though the enemies (Satan, his fallen angels and other followers) will be thinking in their hearts they can destroy all those who are fighting against them (spiritually, with the truth), they won't succeed! In the end, Jesus Christ (and His faithful followers) *will* have the victory! (1 John 5:4, Rev 15:2) ...

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***

1 Cor 15:54-58

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

AMEN.