

Part 5 – A Token for Good

In part 4 we saw David proclaim that our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is the *only* Supreme God (for He created *all* things) and that He is indeed *great* and does *wonderous* things. And His mighty works (including His creation) *separate Him* from all other ‘gods’ and ‘things’ that are worshiped; *proving* that He *truly* is God alone. Then we saw David make a beautiful request for God to help him ‘unite’ his heart so he could fear (and revere) God’s name (holy character) *always*. For those who are double minded cannot truly worship, nor serve (obey) the Lord, because they allow their carnal mind to *control them*... instead of them controlling their carnal mind (heart, the part of us that *wants* to sin). And David promised that, when God helped him ‘unite’ his heart to fear (and revere) God’s name (by teaching David His ways and helping him walk in His truth; i.e. His Word) David would *always* praise Him for it *and* glorify (honor) His precious name (holy character). And this is the thought we pick up with in this great Psalm 86...

Psalm 86

13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

So clearly, this ‘time of trouble’ is not the *first* time David has had difficulties. For here, David declares that God *has been* greatly merciful (kind, #2617) to him, which implies the Lord (YHVH) has delivered him in *past* times of trouble. Now, the word ‘**delivered**’ means *to snatch away* and, here, it’s being used *in a good sense* (#5337). It’s also been rendered as *save, defend, preserve* and *recover*. And the word ‘**soul**’ again means *a breathing creature* (#5315), so he’s referring to his ‘self’ (his ‘inner man’) not just his flesh body. And the word ‘**lowest**’ means *lowermost* or even *the depths*; and, figuratively, *a pit* (#8482). And then the word ‘**hell**’ is the Hebrew word *she'owl* or *sheol* (#7585) which means *Hades* or *the world of the dead* (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates. It’s been rendered also as *grave* and *pit*. So again, David is reminding God of how merciful He has been to David in times past; even saving him from the lowest possible consequences *to our flesh body*: death of the flesh. If this Psalm was indeed written when David was ‘on the run’ from Saul, this verse makes sense. For the Lord (YHVH) delivered David *over and over again* because Saul persecuted him *for years* until he (Saul) himself was finally killed in battle. Yet, the Lord (YHVH) had also delivered David *spiritually* (from apostasy), by helping him *learn to trust in the true* God Almighty (Ps 19:12-14). In fact, it was all those years running from Saul truly gave David the *opportunity to learn to trust in the Lord*. So, not only did the Lord (YHVH) deliver David from physical death (many times) He also delivered David from the ‘lowest of hell’ *spiritually*, by helping him learn to *trust in Him* despite great dangers, and even much emotional turmoil, for having to leave his home, family, friends, nation and Tabernacle where he worshiped the Lord (YHVH).

Psalm 86

14 O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.

Now David explains more about his problems. The word ‘God’ here is again *‘Elohiym’* (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. So, he’s calling upon the *Supreme* God to look upon the fact that ‘proud’ (*arrogant* #2086) men have risen up against him. And even the ‘assemblies’ (or *crowds* #5712) of ‘violent’ (*fearful*, i.e. *powerful* or *tyrannical* #6184) men have ‘sought after’ (meaning, *to search out* or *strive after* #1245) his ‘soul’, which again means *a breathing creature* (#5315). So, there were some very arrogant and powerful (even tyrannical) people seeking to end David’s life. This again makes one think he’s referring to Saul and his servants who sought (for *years*) to kill David. Yet, they not only sought to kill him, but also to ‘crucify’ [metaphorically] his good name (Ps 59:12); for Saul continued to spread rumors that David was a traitor (1 Sam 20:31), which simply *wasn’t true*. David was *extremely* faithful to Saul, his nation (Israel) and to the Lord Himself (YHVH); which is something that Jonathan (Saul’s son *and* David’s best friend) even pointed out to his father (1 Sam 19:4-5). Moreover, one of the Psalms we’ve already studied strongly suggests that this 86th Psalm was written by David, when he was on the run from Saul...

2 Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.

Ps 54:2-3

Note that in this Ps 86:14 David says that *the proud are ‘risen up’ against him*; and then, in Ps 54:3, he said that *the strangers were ‘risen up’ against him* as well. The word ‘stranger’ here means *to turn aside*; but it can also be a *foreigner* or a *stranger*, or a *profane person*; and it can even mean *to commit adultery* (#2114). So, David really was not saying they were non-Israelites (foreigners) who had ‘risen up’ against him, but that they were *profane men* (idolaters) that rose up against him (in Ps 54:3). And profane men *are* also ‘proud’, which is the word this Ps 86:14 uses, which simply means *to be arrogant* (#2086). And then, in this Ps 86:14, David said that the *assemblies of violent men* ‘sought after his soul’; while in Ps 54:3 he said *oppressors* ‘seek after’ my soul. However, the word ‘violent’ (in Ps 86:14) and ‘oppressors’ (in Ps 54:3) are *both* the *same* Hebrew word, which means *fearful*, i.e. *powerful* or *tyrannical* (#6184). But that’s not all. The word ‘sought’ (in Ps 86:14) and ‘seek’ (in Ps 54:3) are also *both* the *same* Hebrew word, which means *to search out* or *strive after* (#1245). And lastly, Ps 54:3 also says that they ‘*have not set God before them*’ while this Ps 86:14 says that they have not ‘*set thee before them*’. So, the language between Ps 86:14 and Ps 54:3 is *incredibly* close. And, since the title of Psalm 54 *does* tell us it just *when* it was written (i.e. when ‘*the Ziph’ims came and said to Saul, Doth not David hide himself with us?*’ - 1 Sam 23:19, 26:1), it’s logical to conclude this Psalm 86 might very well have been written *at the same time frame*, i.e. when Saul and his faithful followers

were trying to kill David, who truly was an innocent man. So, David was indeed going through some incredibly difficult times in his life. And it was not only hard on him physically but also *spiritually*, as many of the Psalms we've already studied (by David) reveal.

Psalms 86

15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

And now (after telling God about his problems) David directs his prayer to the righteous and holy characteristics of our Heavenly Father. And yet again, the word '**Lord**' will show as '*Adonay* (#136) in your *Strong's Concordance*, but it's truly God's Sacred (and covenant) name, **Yehovah** (#3068), which means which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal** (see apx 32 for more information on this). And Yehovah is God *in covenant relation* to those whom are loyal to Him, as David was. And then the word '**God**' here is not '*Elohiym* (#430) this time but rather, '**El** (#410), which means **strength** and **mighty**; especially **the Almighty** albeit it's also used also of any deity. 'El is used in the Scriptures to refer to point out God's *strength, power* and *might* (omnipotence) over *all* His Creation. El is the God Who *knows all* (first occ. Gen 14:18-22) and *sees all* (Gen 16:13) and that *performeth all things* for His people (Ps 57:2) and in Whom *all* the Divine attributes are concentrated. And that's likely *why* David uses this 'title' for the Lord (YHWH) here in this verse [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1218>].

And the purpose for David pointing out God's holy characteristics (and using the name 'El) was *to obtain His mercy* (kindness). After all, that's what Moses did (Ex 32:11) when God was so angry at Israel's making (and worshipping) a golden calf *shortly* after He had literally come down to Mount Sinai and spoke His Commandments to them (Ex 19-20). Also note that David did not make up this list of God's holy characteristics on his own. He was actually *quoting* from God *Himself*. After Moses had pleaded with God to show him (and Israel) grace (Ex 34:12) he then asked God to show him His glory (Ex 34:18). Admittedly, this was very bold, and courageous, request; but by that time, Moses had already developed a pretty good relationship with the Lord (YHWH) and clearly felt as though he could make a request like that. And the Lord did grant his request, albeit he still could not see God's face; for no one can see Him in a flesh body *and live* (Ex 33:20,23). Considering descriptions of our Heavenly Father, and Jesus (Rev 1:13-15, 4:3, 10:1), it's not hard to understand *why*. After all, when Peter, James and John saw Jesus 'transfigured' on the mount, *His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light* (Matt 17:2). And Paul was actually blinded (by a bright light) after his encounter with Jesus Christ, after He had ascended to heaven (Acts 9:3,8). But, the point to our study here is: *what* did God say to Moses as He passed by Him?

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Ex 34:6

Interestingly, the word ‘goodness’ here is the *same* word rendered as ‘mercy’ (#2617, which means *kindness*) in this Ps 86:15. And then the word ‘merciful’ in Ex 34:6 (above) is the *same* word rendered ‘compassionate’ in this Ps 86:15, which means *to be compassionate* (#7349). The other words – gracious, longsuffering and truth – are all the same in Ex 34:6 and Ps 86:15. So, **David used the exact wording that God Himself (YHVH) used when describing Himself to Moses!** So again, this proves David was *not* Biblically illiterate. He *well* knew the Scriptures; so well, in fact, that *He uses God’s own words to humbly beseech help from Him!* He *really* wanted God’s mercy, grace, longsuffering, compassion and truth! So, he reminded God that He swore these were *Divine* characteristics of *Himself*. And, as God Himself said in Isa 43:26, He actually wants us to remind Him of His promises. Not because He needs to be reminded, but because it shows we *know* His Word (and promises) *and believe in Him*. It also shows we believe we’re *doing* ‘our part’ (sincerely trying to *obey* Him) to ‘claim’ His promises. Again, that’s the purpose of this 15th verse, here in David’s lovely prayer...

Psalm 86

16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

Again, David pleads for God’s help and in a quite humbling way. For he again calls himself God’s servant (even his *slave*, #5650, #5647), even the son of God’s ‘handmaid’ which is a female *slave* (#519). And while many think being a ‘slave’ is a bad thing, the truth is, we’re all slaves (servants) to *something*. And really, there’s only two choices. As Paul points out in Romans chapter 6, we’re either a slave to sin (i.e. Satan) or to righteousness (i.e. Jesus Christ). So, we’ll live our life (be enslaved) either for the pleasures of the flesh (sin, Satan) or to do what’s right (righteousness, Jesus Christ). However, as Rom 6:23 also points out, only one leads to eternal life (i.e. serving righteousness and Jesus Christ) but the other leads to spiritual death (i.e. serving sin and Satan). And, as Jesus said in Matt 6:24, ***no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*** Serving ‘mammon’ is the same as serving sin and Satan. For, when you live your life for the ‘love of money’ you **do** serve sin and Satan, not righteousness nor Jesus Christ. Note the distinction here. It’s **not** bad to have, or use, money. But to love it (covet it) **is** sin. As Paul pointed out: *the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Tim 6:10). Paul also points out that *covetousness is idolatry*, in Col 3:5.

And then the word ‘turn’ here means *to turn*, but also (by implication) *to face, appear* or *look* (ect. #6437). And then the word ‘mercy’ here means *to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow*; or, causatively, *to implore* (i.e. *move to favor by petition*) (#2603). And the

word ‘**strength**’ means *strength* in various applications (*force, security, majesty, praise*) (#5797). And lastly, the word ‘**save**’ here is *yasha*` (#3467), which is a primitive root that means *to be open, wide or free*, i.e. (by implication) *to be safe*; causatively, *to free or succor*. It’s one of two prime roots of the Hebrew word (#3091) that Jesus’ Greek name (#2424) comes from. Thus, Jesus’ name is truly the Hebrew word *Yehowshuwa*` or *Yehowshu`a* (#3091), which means *Jehovah-saved*. In other words, Jesus Christ was (and is) our heavenly Father YHVH, who came to this earth in His role as the Savior of His children. God the Father wouldn’t trust that enormous, and precious, task to anyone but Himself. So, He impregnated Mary through a holy miracle, and manifested Himself in the flesh as “Jesus” (*Yehowshu`a*) = YHVH the Savior. As God Himself said in Isa 43:11: *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour*. And again, in Isa 45:21-22: *there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

That’s why, in John 14:8, when Philip pleaded with Jesus, “*Lord, shew us the Father; and it sufficeth us*” Christ replied “*Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*” (John 14:9). As Jesus would later say, “***I and my Father are one***” (John 10:30). Which is precisely why, in I Timothy 3:16, Paul would say, “***God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*” And, if you want more Old Testament documentation to the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh, here’s what Isaiah 9:6 has to say: “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace**.*” So again, Jesus Christ was the physical manifestation of our Heavenly Father, Yehovah (i.e. YHVH). On this earth, Jesus was God in the flesh. Not a separate God. But *God Himself*. He was YHVH, our Heavenly Father, in his physical role (or “office,” if you prefer) of the redeeming savior.

In other words, our Heavenly Father manifested Himself to us in the flesh, coming down to us in order to save us. He took on a tent of flesh. And He gave His own life, shedding His precious blood in redeeming payment for our sins. That’s why Christ said in John 17:6, “*I have manifested thy name unto the men thou has given me*”. He manifested, or “rendered apparent” to His disciples who He really was. For example, He declared it when He stated, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.*”. Jesus was using the sacred name of God Almighty to identify Himself (John 8:58) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>]. As it’s also written: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*” (John 1:1-3). So, yes, God and His Word are One. And **Jesus is the Living Word of God** (John 1:14), therefore, **Jesus is God**. That’s to say, *He is YHVH the Savior*, which again, is precisely what His name means in the original Hebrew language (#3091). Jesus Christ the physical manifestation of God. In the heavenly dimension, God is a Spirit (John 4:24). But in

material form (on earth in a flesh body) – the form He used when He came to redeem us from our sins and from Satan (Heb 2:14) – the Lord (YHVH) is Jesus Christ. You can learn more about this in the following studies...

The Trinity <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1013>

Two Separate People <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>

Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485>

Now, notice also that (back to Ps 86:16) David asks for God to give him HIS strength, which is exactly what the Holy Spirit gives us when we sincerely believe in Jesus Christ (the Word of God) and *earnestly* strive to learn of Him *and obey* Him (Col 1:11, Eph 3:16-17; John 14-16). And he's asking for God to strengthen him *so that* he can endure the hard times, and get through them, without being harmed physically; but also (and more importantly) *spiritually*. And, while our Heavenly Father does expect us to try hard, when we have done all we can do (and are simply getting really weak from consistent persecutions) it's good to call upon him (as David is doing) and ask for help. As Jesus said, in Luke 11:13, our Heavenly Father knows how to give help (comfort) from His Holy Spirit when we ask, seek and knock (vs 9-10). So, once we've studied his word and done all we can do to remedy our situation, turn it over to the Lord (YHVH) and *trust in Him*. He ***promises*** to help us! As Jesus told Paul, *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness* (2 Cor 12:9). So, when we're our weakest (spiritually and/or physically) and call out to God for help (in Jesus' name, John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26) then He'll send us His Holy Spirit and strengthen us. And that will actually make us ***much stronger*** than we could ever be on our own. Which is why Paul wrote that: *when I am weak, then am I strong* (2 Cor 12:10) and: *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me* (Phil 4:13) ...

Psalm 86

17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

David now ends this beautiful prayer by asking the Lord (YHVH) for a 'token for good'. The word '**token**' means a signal (literally or figuratively), *as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence*, etc. (#226). Now, this *same* word (#226) was also used when God promised to give Noah a 'token' of the covenant, when He promised not to destroy the 'earth' (partitively of land, # 776] *by water*; ever again (in Gen 9:12-17). The ***Rainbow*** *was the 'token' to prove the covenant*. It was also used when God made the covenant of circumcision with Abraham; ***circumcision*** *was the 'token' to prove the covenant*. And this same word (#226 token) was also used at the very first Passover, when God commanded Israel kill a lamb and put its blood upon their doorposts (Ex 12). The ***blood*** *of the Passover lamb was the 'token' to prove the covenant* (Ex 12:13) so that the destroyer would *not* kill the firstborn in their house. And what was the

‘token’ (sign or evidence) David was hoping to receive? Likely what he said in the latter part of the verse, when he asked God to ‘holpen’ and ‘comfort’ him *to prove* to those who hated (and were persecuting) him that God was *with him...* and *not them!*

Now, the word ‘**holpen**’ here means *to surround*, i.e. *protect or aid* (#5826) and the word ‘**comforted**’ (in the context of this verse) means *to pity, console* or (reflexively) *rue* (#5162). So, David was asking for the Lord (Yehovah #3068) to protect and help him, as well as to give him the inner strength *and comfort* he needed to get through the hard times. And this would then make his enemies (who were literally trying to kill him) ‘**ashamed**’ which not only means *to be ashamed*, but also (by implication) *to be disappointed* or *delayed* (#954). And truly, David’s enemies were ashamed *and* disappointed. For Saul would eventually die in battle (disgraced) and David was then appointed as the king of Judah; only to become king of *all of Israel* a few years later. So, those who hated David had to ‘change their tune’ quite a bit after he became king! So truly, though it took some times, God did give David the ‘token’ he was asking for. For, the Lord (YHVH) not only protected David for many years when Saul (and many others) was chasing him in the wilderness (trying to kill him), but he then rose David up to be king over *all of Israel*. So, while David did trust in the Lord, he asked for assurance – a ‘token’ - (in the form of spiritual comfort and literal help) to *prove* to those who hated him (were persecuting him) that the Lord (YHVH) was truly *with him*. And again, that also proved that the Lord was *against* those persecuting David. As the Lord said through David’s prophesy (written in 1 Chron 16:22 and Ps 105:15): *Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm*. For, when those who serve the Lord (YHVH) are persecuted, it’s like poking God in the eye (Zech 2:8) and He does *not like* than anymore than we do!

And what this means for us today is that: we too can ask God for comfort (from His Holy Spirit, John 14-16) when in times of distress. In fact, He *wants* us to do so. He wants us to trust in, and rely on Him, for all that we cannot handle ourselves. As God promised Israel (and is thus a promise to all who believe in Jesus Christ, Gal 3:26-29) ...

*10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: **I will strengthen thee;** yea, **I will help thee;** yea, **I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.***

*11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee **shall be ashamed and confounded:** they shall be as nothing; and **they that strive with thee shall perish.***

Isa 41:10-11

And couple other Psalms of David say the same thing, in a bit different way...

38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

*39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he **is their strength in the time of trouble.***

*40 And the LORD shall **help them and deliver them**: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, **because they trust in him**.*

Psalms 37:38-40

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

*18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him **in truth**.*

*19 He will fulfil the desire of **them that fear him**: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.*

*20 The LORD preserveth **all them that love him**: but all the wicked will he destroy.*

Psalms 145:17-20

So, we should remember this beautiful prayer of David; especially when hard times come our way (and *they will* **if** we're *truly* serving Jesus Christ, John 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12). For he teaches us how to humbly beseech our Heavenly Father. And, in doing so, he also teaches us *why* it's important to study God's Word. For within the many examples in God's Word (1 Cor 10:11) we not only learn *what not* to do but also what we *should do*. Through the many examples in God's Word, we learn how to live life 'walking with God' (i.e. walking 'in the Spirit', Gal 5, Rom 8) by *believing in, trusting in and striving to obey Him from the heart* – just as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, David and *so many others* did. As Paul wrote in Rom 15:4: *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*. And above all, let us not forget the perfect (without sin) example that our Lord and Jesus Christ gave us (Phil 2:5-8; 1 Pt 4:1-2). For He suffered *tremendously* to atone for our sins, and redeem our soul from death (and Satan and sin, Heb 2:14). And it is through our faith in (and obedience to, Acts 5:32) the precious blood of Jesus Christ (and His resurrection) that we are given the blessed Holy Spirit that comforts us [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1262>]... *no matter* what comes our way...

*15 **If** ye love me, **keep** my commandments.*

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

*17 Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you**.*

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:15-18

*26 But **the Comforter**, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*27 Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you**: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.*

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:26-27

*15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast, and hold** the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. [i.e. the Word of God, not traditions of man]*

*16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, **and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,***

*17 **Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.***

2 Thess 2:15-17

AMEN.