

Part 6 – The Righteous Shall Flourish

In part 5 we learned how the righteous will be given *great* power (over the wicked) at Jesus' Second Advent. For, He'll not only depose all the wicked ones, and 'workers of iniquity' (as we learned of in verse 9), He will also raise up (exalt) the righteous, which means He'll install His own government (the Body of Christ), which will consist *only* of those who have *remained loyal* to Him, His Father and *His Word* (Rom 8:17; Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:4-6). Thus, while the enemies of the Lord will perish *and* the workers of iniquity will be scattered (separated from the righteous ones, Mth 13:47-50), the righteous ones (those who remain faithful to the *true* Jesus Christ) will not only be exalted high above all others (by being allowed to govern the world with Jesus Christ when He returns) but they'll also be forever 'refreshed' by God's blessed Holy Spirit (i.e. given eternal life), which is what the 'fresh oil' in Ps 92:10 represents. Thus, we also learned that the righteous will 'see' (and in look intently at) their enemies (their foes, who have been 'lying in wait' to kill them, spiritually and/or physically) when the *true* Jesus Christ returns. And they'll even be able to hear (intelligently and with great attention) the demise of the wicked ones and the 'workers of iniquity'; which is why Mth 13:42 says they'll hear their '*wailing and gnashing of teeth*' of the wicked ones (and workers of iniquity, Mth 7:21-23) when Jesus Christ returns. And that simply refers to the immense complaining, and abundant crying, they'll be doing because they realize they worshiped the false Christ (Satan) instead of true Jesus Christ and they are now in very *bad* 'standing' with the King of kings and Lord of lords. So, this beautiful Psalm has been just *full* of promises; and it's also *immensely* prophetic. But we're not done learning of the great promises *to those who remain loyal* to the *true* Jesus Christ...

Psalm 92

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Now we're beginning to be told of the blessings that the true 'Sabbath Rest' (i.e. at Jesus Christ's return, during the Millennium) will have upon those who remain loyal to the *true* Jesus Christ (and don't worship Satan, nor take the 'mark of the beast'). The word '**righteous**' here means **just** (#6662) and comes from a word that means **to be** (causatively, **make**) **right** (in a *moral* or *forensic* sense) #6663), which is why Moffet renders it as 'good men'. And the word '**flourish**' here is a primitive root that means **to break forth as a bud**, i.e. **bloom**; generally, **to spread**; specifically, **to fly** (as extending the wings); figuratively, **to flourish** (#6524). And then the words '**palm tree**' mean (unsurprisingly) **a palm tree**; but it comes from an unused root meaning **to be erect** (#8558), which is *symbolic* of the *moral uprightness* of those who are righteous (i.e. those who love and serve Jesus Christ faithfully).

Thus, the palm tree (which is likely the *date palm* tree being referenced here) is *spiritually* symbolic of *the righteous* - of which our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the first fruit (1 Cor 15:20-23; Rom 8:29; Col 1:18). And the Palm tree was used in decorations on Solomon's Temple (1 Kings

6-7) and will be used on the Millennial Temple as well (Ezekiel 40) *because of what it represents*. You see, the palm tree is an *amazing* tree. And that's because it's a *self-sustaining* tree; meaning, it's a tree that can *fill all of our needs*. There are over 300 uses for the date palm tree, from protein and sugar (for food) to fiber that can make rope, sandals, baskets and more. Its leaves can be used to make homes (which is what they did at the Feast of Tabernacles, Lev 23:39-44). This tree thus symbolizes the victory and peace we have in Jesus Christ due to the fact that Jesus Christ can *fill all our needs* (spiritually and physically) IF we let Him. This is why palm leaves were brought to lay before Him, when He entered Jerusalem before His crucifixion (John 12:13). And, because they also grow in the wilderness, they were vitally important back then. In fact, they still are today! Thus, they are likened to our 'life giver', which is of course, Jesus Christ. So, when this Psalmist says that the righteous will flourish like a palm tree, he's not only saying they'll be morally upright (as a palm tree grows very straight), he's saying they will be *abundantly* fruitful. And that's all because they are connected to the true 'Vine', Jesus Christ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1273>].

And then, the latter half of this verse 12 (here in Ps 92) says that *he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon*. The word '**grow**' here means *to enlarge* (especially *upward* #7685) and the word '**cedar**' means (not surprisingly) *a cedar tree (from the tenacity of its roots)* (#730). And then '**Lebanon**' is *a mountain range in Palestine* and also means *(the) white mountain (from its snow)* (#3844). Now, this too has great spiritual significance. You see, there's several very important characteristics about the cedar tree that God uses, as a metaphor, to explain spiritual truths to us. First off, cedar trees have *very firm roots*. As notes in the *Companion Bible* point out: in mountain snows and storms, the roots of the cedar tree keep it upright because they are embedded in the rocks. And that is *spiritually* symbolic for how, in order to grow spiritually, we *must* be *deeply rooted in His truth* (God's Word). Only then can we grow spiritually strong and firm... like the cedar tree! For, the cedar of Lebanon can grow up to 120 feet tall (as tall as a 10- to 12-story building). Its branches are wide-spreading, and go straight out horizontally 30 to 50 feet from the trunk. And some say that the cedars of Lebanon cast down their roots *as deeply as they are tall*! And, in the parable of the sower [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1288>] Jesus tells us the importance of having deep roots...

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

*13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and **these have no root**, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

*15 But that on the good ground are they, which **in an honest and good heart**, having heard the word, **keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.***

Luke 8:12-15

So, if we are not honest and sincere about following Jesus Christ, we won't put down deep roots, which means we won't really believe God's Word and, consequently, we won't *obey* Him. And, further to this, the cedars of Lebanon *grow among the snow*, near the highest part of Lebanon. Hence, they continue to grow all year round, even in the dead of winter. So, this Psalmist is prophesying that the righteous grow like that when Jesus Christ returns. Not just during the summer, fall and spring but, even when winter comes and even when there's snow all around. So, it really is a good tree to use to symbolize how the righteous will grow, spiritually, and be prosperous both physically and spiritually when the true 'Sabbath Rest' comes at Jesus' return. Moreover, in Hos 14:8-9, our Heavenly Father says: ***I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*** While the 'fir' tree here isn't the same Hebrew word as the cedar tree we've been studying (#1265), the analogy is still the same. Our Heavenly Father is strong and faithful, as is His Word. We can always count on Him because *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he* (Deut 32:4).

Psalms 92

13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Now, the word '**planted**' here is interesting because it actually means ***to transplant*** (#8362). And the Lord's 'plantings' are often used, symbolically, in His Word. In Isaiah 5, God likens Israel to a vineyard and Judah His 'pleasant plant' (i.e. the Vine) which became 'wild grapes', which are actually *poison* berries. And that's because, despite the fact that He (metaphorically) planted Israel into the Promise Land, they became rebellious to Him. Which is why He took away their hedge of protection and allowed them to be 'rooted up' when they were taken away captive, out of the Promise Land. Psalm 80 used this analogy, as did Paul (Rom 11) and Jesus too. In Matt 15:13, Jesus said that: *Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*. That simply means that, any nation that's not obedient to Him, will be destroyed (rooted up). And that's why He used this analogy also in Matt 21:33-44, where He used the *same* analogy as His Father did, in Isaiah 5, to prophesy of how those wicked Jews (who refused to believe upon Him) would eventually be deposed from power. In verse 43, He was very direct when He said: *Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof*. That 'nation' are all of the people (regardless of race) who believe upon Him; for they are the *true* Israel, because *they believe in (and obey) our Heavenly Father* (Gal 3:26-29). And of course, that will ultimately not come to pass till Jesus Christ returns. But, as history records, Jerusalem was sacked and the so called 'Jews' did lose power. That's also why, after the Gospel of Jesus Christ was taken to the 'lost tribes of Israel', they did flourish and become what we now call the Christian nations ('the west') today. But, as this Psalm points out, the true 'planting' of the Lord (YHVH) will be when Jesus Christ returns and deposes

all those (regardless of race or gender) who are rebellious to Him, and installs His own righteous government, which is the true Body of Christ (regardless of race or gender) *because they are obedient to Him*.

Further, the Word of God is just full of places where the ‘planting’ and ‘rooting up’ of the Israelite nation (and others) is spoken of. Jeremiah used this analogy (Jer 11:16-17, Jer 12:2). And in Jer 17:7-8 pointed out that: *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river; and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit*. Ps 1:1-3 also says this as well, and they both look forward to what this precious 13th verse is prophesying of: when Jesus Christ returns and plants His own righteous government in Jerusalem. But, Ezekiel also used this analogy (Ezek 17:2-10), as did Paul, when explaining the first resurrection (Rom 6:5). And, we certainly could go on and on with this topic of the ‘planting’ and ‘rooting up’ but the above should be sufficient for our study. You can also check out the first chapter in the great book of Jeremiah, who God commissioned *to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant* (Jer 1:10) [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Jeremiah/22].

And then the word ‘**house**’ (here in Ps 92:13) does mean *a house* (#1004) but it can also mean a family too - and that’s *exactly* how this Psalm is using it. Paul also explained this in Heb 3:1-6 as well as 1 Cor 3:9-17. And Peter also, in 1 Peter 2:1-5. But, in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explained it so beautifully...

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Eph 2:18-22

So, the ‘house’ (i.e. government) that Jesus Christ is ‘building’ for His Father (YHVH) consists of those who ‘abide in’ the Lord (via faith in Jesus) by learning of, and obeying Him, faithfully. Which is something Israel of old was negligent to do! And that’s why only those Israelites *who accept Jesus Christ* will make the first resurrection, and be allowed to reign with Jesus Christ. But, thankfully, as Gal 3:26-29 explains, this will also include anyone of any race who accepts Jesus Christ. And then, this 13th verse (in Ps 92) uses God’s Sacred (and covenant) name again. The word ‘**Lord**’ is truly *Yehovah* (#3068), (the) *self-Existent* or *Eternal*. While ‘Elohim is God as the Creator of all things, Yehovah is the same God in covenant relation to those whom He has

created. Thus, Yehovah is the Eternal or Immutable One, He Who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME. The Divine definition is given in Gen 21:33. He is especially, therefore, the God of Israel; *and* the God of those who are redeemed, and are thus now ‘in Christ’.

And then, this 13th verse goes on to say that those who are planted in the house of the Lord (Yehovah = YHVH) *shall flourish in the courts of our God*. The word ‘**flourish**’ here again means *to break forth as a bud*, i.e. **bloom**; generally, *to spread*; specifically, *to fly* (as extending the wings); figuratively, *to flourish* (#6524). And then the word ‘**courts**’ means *a yard (as inclosed by a fence)*; also a *hamlet* (as similarly *surrounded with walls*) (#2691). And then we see the only ‘title’ of the Lord (YHVH) used in this Psalm. The word ‘**God**’ is really ‘**Elohiym**’ (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our **Creator**. ‘**Elohiym**’ (or ‘**Elohim**’) is God the Creator putting His omnipotence (‘*El*’) *into operation*. It’s first occurrence (Gen 1:1) connects it with creation, and gives it its essential meaning as the Creator.

Now, let’s remember that this Psalm is prophetic of the *true* ‘Sabbath Rest’, which is when Jesus Christ returns to earth and begins to rule for a thousand years (the Millennium, Rev 20). You can learn more about this time period in the special study on **Enhances and Magnifies** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/421>] for it explains that God’s Word actually talks quite a bit about this time period, albeit not directly using the word ‘Millennium’. So, when Jesus Christ returns, He will install (plant) His own righteous government, in Jerusalem, *after* He’s cleaned out the city by deposing the wicked ones during the ‘day of vengeance’ (Isa 24:17-23; Matt 13:40-42, 47-50, Matt 24:29-31, 25:31-46; Mark 13:24-27; Rev 20:1-5). And the fact that the wicked are no longer in control – and Jesus and His righteous government (the true Body of Christ) are in control of the world – is why the earth and the righteous ones will flourish so much. We’ve learned much about this in past Psalms such as 65, 68 and 72 (among others). And the Scriptures are *abundantly* clear that the earth, and the righteous ones, *will be more prosperous*, when Jesus Christ returns, *than anything we’ve ever seen* - even during the reigns of David and Solomon. Isaiah speaks much of this too, of course. In Isa 61:2 the righteous ones are even called *trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD* and the balance of chapter continues on to explain the immense prosperity the world will see at that time - because of Jesus’ righteous reign, which will never end from that time forth. Yet, we could also look at Scriptures such as Isa 49:8-11, 51:1-3, 58:10-12, 66:5, 12-16, Ps 132:13-18, Prov 11:28, Prov 14:11 and (many) more to learn of the ‘flourishing’ of the righteous (and the world) that will happen when Jesus Christ returns.

Psalms 92

14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Now, this verse *continues on explaining* the great flourishing of the righteous ones, who are planted in the courts of the Lord’s (YHVH) house. The words ‘**bring forth**’ here mean *to*

germinate, i.e. (figuratively) to (causatively, **make**) **flourish**; also (of words), **to utter** (#5107). And the words ‘**old age**’ do, in fact, mean **old age** (#7872). And then the word ‘**fat**’ does mean **fat**, but can *also* mean, figuratively, **rich** and **fertile** (#1879). Lastly, the word ‘**flourishing**’ means **verdant** [green with growing plants]; and, by analogy, it means **new** while, figuratively, it means **prosperous** (#7488). And, of course, this verse is incredibly prophetic of God’s promise to give eternal life to those who love and obey Him (and Jesus Christ) faithfully. And Jesus also spoke of this promise in John 3:14-18, John 6:53-63 and John 10:27-29. And shortly before He died, He also said...

1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

*2 As **thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.***

*3 And **this is life eternal**, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

John 17:1-3

So, the bringing forth fruit in old age, and being fat (fertile) and flourishing is clearly symbolic for the *spiritual* fruit they will produce when they, who are faithful to Jesus Christ, are given eternal life, when He returns to the earth (at His Second Advent). Paul explained this, in part, in his prayer for the Colossians, when he said that he hoped they would be *filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding* so they could *walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.* And he even specified **what** would make them fruitful ‘in every good work’; it is by being *strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power* (Col 1:9-14). In other words, it is through the Holy Spirit within us that we are able to produce good fruit, and *abundantly* so. As Jesus also explained...

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. []

*7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

8 Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.
9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.
John 15:1-11

So, in order to be *spiritually* fruitful (even now) we must be ‘plugged into’ the true Vine, Jesus Christ. You can learn more about this in the following studies...

The Vine – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992>
The Vine – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/993>
The True Vine and Pruning <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1271>
Abiding in the Vine <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1273>
Hearing God <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39>

But the bottom line is that we must keep our heart and mind ‘plugged into’ God’s Word and learn how to hear, *and obey*, it along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. For truly, **the only good ‘thing’ in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit**. That’s why, if we want to obtain eternal life – instead of receiving the cursings that the wicked people get (and eventually, be blotted out of existence) - we must put off our ‘old man’ *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and *not serve sin any longer* (Rom 6:6). We do this by *renewing in the spirit of your mind* (Eph 4:23) *through studying God’s Word* (Col 3:10) so the Holy Spirit will help us put on the ‘new man’, which *is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). Thus, even now, it doesn’t matter how old we get, we can still be spiritually fruitful. For, *though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day* (2 Cor 4:16) by knowledge of Jesus Christ (Col 3:10).

Yet, this verse (Ps 92:14) is indeed prophetic of the Millennial ‘Sabbath Rest’, when Jesus Christ returns. And, as noted before, there are many Old Testament Scriptures that speak of this, such as Isa 49:8-11, 51:1-3, 58:10-12, 66:5, 12-16, Ps 132:13-18, Prov 11:28, Prov 14:11 and (many) more. And yet, even past the Millennial ‘Sabbath Rest’, we’re also promised great peace and prosperity the likes of which we’ve never seen before (Rev 21:1-7, Rev 22:1-5). As Isa 51:3 says, *the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody*. And Ps 1:3 also says (speaking of the righteous) *he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*. Jer 17:7-8 echoes this promise as well. And, as Rev 22:1-2 tells us, in the eternity (which is after the Millennium),

there will be a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. And, 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. So, those who are in the ‘courts of our God’ (serving the Lord in His Temple) will truly be (quite literally) ‘planted’ by the *pure river of water of life*, and all other people saved will also have access to the Tree of life too. So again, there are great promises to those who love and obey (and remain faithful) to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Not only to those who make the first resurrection (Rev 20:4-6) but also to those who overcome in the Millennium (Rev 20:12).

Psalms 92

15 To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

And herein we see the *reason* that God promises such *abundant* prosperity to those who love and obey Him, *faithfully*. It shows that He’s ‘upright’ and that there’s absolutely NO unrighteousness in Him. The word ‘**shew**’ here means to *stand boldly out opposite*, i.e. to *manifest* or even to *announce* (always by word of mouth to one present), as well as to *expose, predict, explain* or praise (#5046). And the word ‘**upright**’ means *straight* (#3477) and comes from a word that means *to be straight* or *even*; figuratively, *to be* (causatively, to make) *right, pleasant* and *prosperous* (#3474). And then the word ‘**unrighteousness**’ means (*moral*) *evil* (#5766). So, the point is: our Heavenly Father *doesn’t bless the wicked*. He blesses the *righteous*. And that, in itself, proves that He’s upright and that there’s no unrighteousness (corruption) in Him, which is why He’s not a ‘respector of persons’ (Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, Col 3:24-25). He does not judge by your looks, how ‘nice’ you seem to be, nor is His judgment perverted for any reason (bribes, threats, etc.). And that’s because He always judges by His own laws, which are righteous (John 12:46-48). As Deut 32:4 says, *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he*. But, the word today is full of partiality and corruption. And the fact that our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) is not that way, is a *distinguishing* (and defining) characteristic of Him. Yet, as many Scriptures also profess, our Heavenly Father is also *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth* (Ex 34:6, Ps 145:8) to those who fear Him, which means they *keep his covenant, and remember his commandments to do them* (Ps 103:17-18). And this is why God’s Sacred (and covenant) Name, *Yehovah* (#3068) is used here in this last verse of this beautiful Psalm (rendered as ‘Lord’).

Further, God is our Rock (Jesus Christ too, Deut 32:3, 1 Cor 10:4) because His Word is our ‘moral compass’ (moral foundation). It keeps us spiritually ‘grounded’ upon *truth*, which is what we need to live *eternally* (John 6:63; 17:3) In other words, the truth keeps us from becoming corrupted in our heart (desires, emotions, motivations, intentions) and mind (thoughts). In Mth 7:24-27 Jesus gave us a great parable that explains the importance of keeping our heart and mind

grounded firmly upon God's Word. He explained that those who hear, *and do*, His sayings (God's Word) are a like a wise man who built his house *upon a rock*. For, when the winds and floods (lies, deception, hard times) came and 'beat' upon the house, the wise man's house didn't fall *because* it had a solid foundation *upon a rock*. So, no matter the hard times, lies or temptations that come upon us, if our heart and mind is firmly upon *the* 'Rock' of God's Word (both Old and New Testaments) then we won't fall, spiritually, to lies and deception, nor to any of the 'lusts of the flesh', or bitterness and hatred that comes from being in a flesh body. The parable of the sower explains there's *many* reasons why people fall away from the truth (God's Word) and don't become productive servants for Jesus Christ (Mth 13:18-23; Lk 8:10-15). As Jesus said in Luke 8:15, only those who have *an honest and good heart* (those on the good ground) will *hear* God's Word and 'keep' it (with patience), which is *what* brings for good spiritual fruit. You can learn more about how to truly 'keep' God's Word in the study on **Keep God's Word** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/465>].

However, those who are not serious about studying God's Word might *hear* it (even from the pulpit once or twice a week) but, *because they are not serious* (sincere, having a good and honest heart) *they don't really take it into their heart* (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) *and mind* (thoughts). And that's why Jesus likens them to a man who built his house upon sand. When we base or moral foundation upon our feelings, traditions of man or the ways of the world, we will fall, spiritually, to deception and sin. Many people are manipulated, and controlled, *by their emotions*. And that's what makes them an *unproductive* servant to Jesus Christ, despite their claiming to be Christians. As Jesus also warned in Mth 7 (vs 21-23) not everyone who claims to be His follower will be allowed to enter the Kingdom of Heaven; which means they'll miss the *first* resurrection (eternal life, Rev 20:4-6) and be denied the privilege of serving in Jesus' eternal government.

So, it's vitally important to keep our heart and mind on *the* 'Rock', which is God's Word (Deut 32:3, 1 Co 10:4), so our faith in God's Word *doesn't ever waiver*. And if we do remain *steadfastly* loyal to Jesus Christ (*because* our heart and mind is firmly on His Word - which means we study His Word each day and strive, *sincerely*, to obey it our entire life) then He will bless us, just as this great Psalm has been promising. And again, the fact that God blesses those who strive sincerely to do what's right is what proves He is upright and uncorruptible. So, we must never forget that: unless we remain *faithful* to our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) we won't get to experience the blessed prosperity – or the precious 'Sabbath Rest' - that our Heavenly Father has promised us, which this beautiful Psalm has been so careful to describe. Not only will we miss out on the first resurrection, but we'll also miss out on the peace of mind, and blessings, that we can have today *because* we trust, *and obey*, Him *faithfully* (Isa 26:3-4, Phil 4: 6-7).

*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 1:7-12

AMEN.