

Part 2 – His Lightnings Will Enlighten the World

In chapter ninety-seven, part 1, we learned that, while the last chapter (Ps 96) put forth ‘the call’ to *sing* the ‘New Song’, this chapter (Psalms 97) will be *the ‘answer’ to it* because it **is** the *actual* ‘New Song’. So, it speaks about the *how* the Lord (Jesus Christ) returns to the earth *and how* He will reign forevermore. So, the Psalm began by declaring a ‘fixed time’ for us (i.e. when Jesus Christ reigns) *and* calling the earth to rejoice at His return. And then it began to explain *how* He’ll return. That’s why we were told that ‘clouds and darkness’ are round about Him, which simply means that Jesus Christ *will* return *with* ‘clouds and darkness’ because *that’s what surrounds* His magnificent flying vehicle that He returns to earth in (along with His angelic army). And the *reason* there’s ‘darkness’ is simply because the clouds surrounding His throne can be dark, especially when they are stormy – and the Lord (YHVH) uses those dark clouds *to fight with* via the lightning, wind, hail and rain.

And, we also learned that Jesus Christ is returning to this earth to fight the wicked ones on earth, i.e. He’s coming back ‘with a vengeance’ to pour out God’s ‘cup of wrath’ upon the wicked, which is *what* will save (and comfort) all those who have remained faithful to Him. And then, we also learned that, when Jesus Christ returns (at His Second Advent) to rule the world *forevermore*, He **will** rule (and judge) ***in righteousness and judgment***, which means that He’ll rule *according to God’s Laws*, which are the *only true* righteous Laws in the universe. And that’s why we learned that righteousness and (righteous) judgment (i.e. true justice) are the ‘habitation’ of the Lord’s (YHVH’s) throne (via Jesus Christ) – it’s because righteousness and (righteous) judgment (i.e. true justice) dwelt with Him, i.e. they are an integral part of who He is. As Psalms 145:17 says, *the LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*. And the only people who don’t like this are those who refuse to believe the truth (God’s Word) because they take pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess 2:12; John 3:19-21). Thus, they *won’t* be singing this ‘new song’ when Jesus Christ returns; but rather, they’ll be crying their eyes out (Rev 1:7) and praying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them (Isa 2:17-22; Rev 6:15-17). But those who have remained faithful will be *joyously* singing this beautiful ‘new song’, which we’ll now learn more about...

Psalm 97

3 A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.

Now, to understand this verse we must remember that it’s *still* speaking about the return of Jesus Christ *and* how He reigns (vs 1-2). As such, we’re told that a fire goes before Him and burns up His enemies round about. The word ‘**fire**’ here is a prim word that indeed means ***fire*** and can be used in a literal, or figurative, sense (#784) and has been rendered also as *burning, fiery, flaming* and *hot*. And then the word ‘**goeth**’ means ***to walk*** (literally or figuratively); causatively, ***to carry*** (in various senses) (#3212) while the word ‘**before**’ does mean ***before*** when it’s used as a

preposition (#6440), or even **the face** (as the part that turns - literally or figuratively) and has also been rendered as **presence**, such as back in Ps 95:2. And then the words ‘**burneth up**’ means (properly) **to lick** (as a fire ‘licks up’, or consumes, what it comes in contact with) or (by implication) **to blaze** (#3857), and has also been rendered as *burn (up)*, *set on fire*, *flaming* or *kindle*. And then the word for ‘**enemies**’ isn’t the usual Hebrew word that is often rendered as an ‘enemy’ or ‘enemies’ (which is #341 and means hating or an adversary). Rather, the Hebrew here means **narrow** or, (as a noun) **a tight place** (usually figuratively, i.e. **trouble**) as well as **a pebble** (as in #6864) and even (transitive) **an opponent** (as *crowding*) (#6862). The likely meaning here is an opponent. Lastly, the words ‘**round about**’ again (as in vs 2) mean (as a noun) **a circle**, **neighbor**, or **environs** (i.e. surroundings or vicinity; an adjoining region or space); but chiefly (as adverb, with or without preposition) it means **around** (#5439). It’s also comes from a prim root that means **to revolve, surround, or border** (#5437).

And let’s remember what we also learned in our last study; our Heavenly Father (via Jesus Christ) *will* be returning to earth (at Jesus’ Second Advent) to take *full control* over the earth. That’s when He will gather up all people and judge them for the Millennium, which is a thousand years Jesus will reign on earth (with His faithful servants) *before* the *final* judgment at the ‘Great White Throne Judgment’ [and the judgment at the ‘Great White Throne’ is the *only* time anyone will ever die *spiritually* (Rev 20:10-15)]. And when Jesus Christ returns, He will return with *ten thousands of his saints* (in their magnificent flying vehicles) *to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him* (Jude 14-15). **And that’s why ‘fire goeth before Him’**. So, fire is one of the things our Heavenly Father uses to fight with, even in the literal sense. And, along with protection, that’s why a ‘dark clouds’ (clouds and darkness, vs 2) are round about Him, for He uses fire (such as lightning) that comes out of the clouds (surrounding His flying vehicle) as a weapon to fight with. That’s why Jesus Himself said He was going to return to the earth ‘*in the clouds with great power and glory*’ (Matt 24:30; Matt 26:64; Mark 13:26; Mark 14:62; Rev 1:7).

Moreover, God’s magnificent flying vehicle (along with the other angels in flying vehicles too) also puts out such a *brilliantly bright* light that *looks like fire*, as Ezekiel explained when he saw it... *And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire* (Ezek 1:4). We must remember, people who penned the Bible didn’t have modern technology. So, the way they described things were rather ‘primitive’ to our ‘modern day’ standards. Thus, the only thing they had to describe lights (as we know of today) was fire, for that’s the only kind of light (other than the sun, moon and the stars) they knew of. So, Ezekiel also saw a *great* cloud that surrounded God’s flying vehicle and, in the midst of that cloud (and fire), was His flying vehicle, which Ezekiel described as being the color of ‘amber’. The word ‘**amber**’ in the Hebrew means **a bronze or polished spectrum** metal, (#2830) i.e. **a**

highly polished bronze. But, there was also *a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it...* just as we read in this Psalm 97:3! Further, Ezekiel also describes God's vehicle(s) as a 'whirlwind' which is simply a euphemism that means the vehicles are *circular* and *they spin*. It also implies *great speed* and *power*. And the prophet Isaiah also prophesied of what this Psalm 97:3 is speaking of too, using the term 'whirlwind', to describe our Heavenly Father's flying vehicles that He, and His holy angels, ride in...

15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Isa 66:15-16

These verses *really* help to explain what this Psalm 97:3 is saying. When our Heavenly Father returns, He's coming *with fire* (Deut 4:21; 9:3; Heb 12:29) that *will* be used to fight against His enemies, which are those who *hate* Him, *actively* work against Him, and *refuse* to hear His Word that will come from the mouths of His servants, who His Holy Spirit testifies *through* during the 'great tribulation' (Rev 11; Mth 24; Mk 13; Lk 21). In other words, those who *hate the truth* (and therefore love lies) *will be consumed with the Lord's 'fire'* when He returns (John 3:19-21; 2 Thess 2:10-12). And while there's certainly a physical sense to this 'fire' of the Lord (Zeph 3:8, Zech 14:12; Joel 2:3; Rev 19:11-21; 20:9, etc.), it's also spiritual, as Jesus warned in Rev 2:16: *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth*. And Paul points this out too, when he wrote about Jesus' return: *then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming* (2 Thess 2:8). The 'wicked' referred to here is Satan himself (2 Thess 2:3-4, 9) who will be *humiliated* by the brightness of Jesus' return (Rev 20:1-3), which simply means Jesus' returns will prove (bring 'to light' the fact) that Satan is a LIAR (John 8:44). For, when Satan's kicked out of heaven to earth (Rev 12, with his fallen angels) Satan will be claiming (lying 'like a dog') that HE is God Almighty who has come to 'save' the world from all our troubles (2 Thess 2). And that is a *big, fat, lie!* And, therefore, Jesus' return will indeed destroy (consume) Satan's lies because it'll *prove* Satan is **not** God and he is **not** all powerful; for he's *unable* to save *anyone* from experiencing God's 'cup of wrath', let alone avoid being arrested when Jesus Christ returns (Rev 20:1-3).

Further, the Lord (YHVH) has also said, *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?* (Jer 23:29). These questions are a figure of speech (Erotesis, apx 6) which is when a question is asked, *not for an answer or information*, but *to make a point*. And the point clearly is to *affirm* that God's Word *is as a fire* and *a hammer that breaks the false rock* (Satan) *in pieces* (as prophesied also in Dan 2:44-45; Mth 21:44; Rev 18:21). And so, in both a literal (physical) sense – and in a spiritual sense – a fire really does 'go'

before the presence of the Lord, which is why a brilliant bright light surrounds His flying vehicle *and* ‘by His Word’ His enemies are consumed in both the physical sense (at Jesus’ return) and then in the spiritual sense (during the Millennium). And *that’s* what will ‘burneth up’ (consume, Deut 4:21; 9:3; Heb 12:29) His enemies that surround Him as He returns (Rev 16:12-16). As Paul explains in **1 Cor 15** [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Corinthians/33] we’re **all** going to put off our flesh bodies when Jesus Christ returns, but only those who will are faithful to Jesus Christ (the true one) will receive an *eternal* body (Phil 3:21). The others will simply be changed (the ‘hard way’ via death) into a different body (non-flesh) that is (along with their soul and spirit) *still be liable to die*, as the special study **Spiritual and Material Dimensions** also explains [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263>].

Psalm 97

4 His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

Here again, we’re being given more details about the return of Jesus Christ (i.e. His Second Advent). And He’s **not** coming to ‘rapture’ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>] His elect out of the earth, but *to make war against His enemies* (the wicked ones), which **is** what saves His ‘elect’ (faithful servants) from the wicked ones [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>]. So, we don’t need a ‘rapture’ *because* Jesus Christ **will help us through the tribulation** because He wants to *use us to witness*, for the truth, to those on earth (John 17:15). In fact, believing in a ‘rapture’ only sets us up to accept the *false* Christ, who is Satan [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>]. So, we need to study God’s Word *sincerely* (2 Tim 2:15) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/465>] and put on the full Gospel armor (Eph 6) to *get ready* for the spiritual fight ahead, for *it is coming* and we *need* to be ready for it [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>].

So then, when Jesus Christ returns, ‘*His lightnings enlightened the world*’. And this truly is simply explaining the last verse, which stated that a fire goes before Him to burn up His enemies. The word ‘**lightnings**’ here does mean **lightning** but, by analogy, it also means **a gleam** and, concretely, **a flashing sword** (#1300). This same Hebrew word rendered here (in Ps 97:4) as ‘lightnings’ (#1300) is used in Deut 32:41-42, when the Lord (YHWH) prophesied of His return via the ‘Song of Moses’. And He said: *If I whet my **glittering** sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy*. The word ‘**glittering**’ here is #1300, which means **a flashing sword** in this case, but can also be used to refer to **a gleam** (bright light) or **lightning**. And #1300 comes from a prim root that means to **lightening** or **lightning** (#1200). And this word is also used in a Psalm of David when he’s calling on God to save him from his enemies, as the Lord had done in the past...

5 Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

6 Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them.
7 Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;
8 Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
Ps 144:5-8

So, David' speaking of the same 'lightnings' (even fire, as Ps 97:3) that God uses to fight His enemies, in a very literal sense, which is exactly the way this word (#1300) is being used here in this Psalm 97:4. Psalms 18 also spoke of God using lightning to fight with, which comes out of the clouds that surround His magnificent flying vehicle. Ps 18:14 is very graphic, for it says that the Lord (YHVH) *sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them*. So, God's 'arrows' and 'sword' are both likened to lightnings (even fire). And David was describing something he literally saw (physically) when the Lord (YHVH), and His holy angels, came to earth (literally) to help David (and the Israelite army) fight against their enemies (ex: 2 Sam 5:23-25). He used to lightning (which David likened to God's 'arrows') from His flying vehicle (the cloud surrounding it) to 'discomfort' the enemy. You can get a refresher on this studying the Psalm 18 via this link: [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/156]. And lightning, of course, is a *very* effective weapon of war, for one does not even have to be directly hit by lightning to be hurt by it, and there's absolutely *no defense against it*, except perhaps trying to run, which does not work well due to the quickness of lightning. And, lightning is spoken of in other places in God's Word, and also in connection with how God uses it as a weapon of war. Recall what we learned a few chapters back...

13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?
14 Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.
15 Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.
16 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.
*17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: **thine arrows also went abroad.***
*18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: **the lightnings lightened the world:** the earth trembled and shook.*
Ps 77:13-18

This account (in Ps 77) is speaking of when the Egyptians were in the midst of crossing the Red Sea (chasing after Israel) and how God began to fight against them, by causing a storm from the very cloud He was abiding in. And then verse 18 (in Ps 77) even says that the 'voice' of God's thunder was in the heaven and that His lightnings (likened to arrows in vs 17) lightened the 'world' (area #8398). The word 'voice' here means *to call aloud, a voice* or sound (#6963) and the word '**thunder**' means *a peal of thunder* (#7482) which is *a loud sound or succession of sounds of thunder*. What's also interesting is that the word 'heaven', in vs 18, actually means a

wheel; by analogy, **a whirlwind**; also *dust* (as whirled) (#1534). So, the sound of God's thundering's was 'in the wheel'... again this shows us that the Lord (YHVH) brought upon the Egyptians a great and mighty thunderstorm that He personally was controlling *from His flying vehicle*. And He sent out many lightnings (#1300) - so much so that it lightened the *entire area* (world #8398) ... which is what this Ps 97:4 is speaking of too! And this is how he 'troubled' the Egyptians, insomuch that the wheels of their chariots wouldn't work anymore and they had to 'make a run for it' to try and get back safety (Ex 14:25). But, as they ran, the earth 'trembled and shook' (Ps 77:18). The word '**trembled**' here means **to quiver** (#7264) and the word '**shook**' means **to undulate** (#7493) which means to fluctuate – something that happens during an earthquake's tremors. So, these verses also documents (again) that God was *literally* in a cloud (which covered His magnificent flying vehicle), fighting against His enemies. You can get more Biblical documentation about the flying vehicles God (and His army) uses to fly in, from the studies below...

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392>

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393>

So, here in Ps 97:4 we again see God's 'lightning' connected to *God's warfare*. For when He redeems His people (when Jesus Christ returns), He uses His weapons of war to free them, just like He did with the Egyptians (and also when fighting for Israel many times while they were in the Promise Land). As the Lord said in Mic 7:15: *According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him [God's enemies] marvellous things* (consider Rev 11:3-6). And then (again, back to Ps 97:4) the word '**enlightened**' is a prim root that means **to be** (causative, **make**) **luminous** (literally and metaphorically) (#215) and has also been rendered as *break of day, glorious, kindle, (be, en-, give, show) light (-en, -ened), set on fire, and to shine* (#215). Then the word '**world**' means **the earth** (as moist and therefore inhabited); and, by extension, it means **the globe**; and, by implication, it means **its inhabitants**; and, specifically, it means **a particular land**, as Babylonia or Palestine, etc. (#8398). The *Companion Bible* renders this as 'the habitable world'. Thus, this Ps 97:4 declares that the Lord 'enlightened' (luminated, #215) the world (and the inhabitants of it, #8398) with his lightnings (#1300). Indeed, a great lightning storm is frightful; you definitely don't want to be caught out in it. Lightning can even cause fires that can cause great destruction, which shows that it is indeed a very effective 'weapon' of warfare and *only* God can *control* the lightening. However, there's more to it than just lightning being a tool God uses to fight with. Consider what Jesus said when explaining His return...

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not*
24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*
25 *Behold, I have told you before.*
26 *Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*
27 ***For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***
Matt 24:21-27

Jesus explained a very important detail about His return in this account; it's a detail that is quite different than when Satan comes to earth, with his fallen angels (Rev 12). For just as lightning can lighten up the *whole* sky, so too will Jesus' return lighten the sky, but it will be all across the entire globe! Why? Well, the great book of Revelations (which means *disclosure*, #602) gives us vital clues to this. For example, Rev 19:11 says: *And I [i.e. John] saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.* John is describing what he saw would happen when Jesus Christ returns. And what did he say? He saw heaven '**opened**', which means **to open up** (#455). When Jesus returns, heaven opens up – which means the dimensions part – to allow Jesus and His angelic army to come through *and take over the whole world*. And that's why Jesus said (in Mth 24:27) His return would be similar to how lighting lightens up the entire sky. But, we're also given more details about Jesus' return (even why it'll be such a magnificent return), insomuch that the whole world will *know* that the *true* Christ (Jesus) is returning...

12 *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*
13 *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*
14 *And **the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together**; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*
15 *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*
16 *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*
17 ***For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?***
Rev 6:12-17

So, shortly before Jesus returns there will be a *great* earthquake, which Rev 16:18 describes as being a greater earthquake *so great* that there's *never* been one like it since flesh mankind has

been on the earth (which Zech 14, Hag 2:6-7, 21-23 and Heb 12:12-26-29 speak of). And that will cause nature to react (possibly by a volcano?) so that the sun is darkened and the moon is turned red... which will what? It will make things *very* dark, much like the Egyptians experienced (Ex 10:22) shortly before the last plague (which Joel 2:2 and Zeph 1:14-15 describe as well). And then the heavens ‘**departed**’ as a ‘scroll that is rolled together’. The word ‘**departed**’ here (in Rev 6:14) means *to rend apart* or *to separate* (#673). Since we don’t use scrolls today, you may be better able to envision this as a window blind when it’s pulled – it opens up, just like a scroll does when it’s rolled up. *That’s* what happens to the sky (heavens above us) when Jesus Christ returns. In other words, this fleshly dimension will open up (split open) to allow Jesus Christ, and His massive angelic army, to come through. And you can rest assured, that when this happens *everyone* on earth *will* see it *and tremble*, just as the latter part of this Ps 97:4 stated! The word ‘**trembled**’ (here in Ps 94:4) means *to twist or whirl* (in a circular or spiral manner), i.e. (specifically) *to dance, to writhe in pain* (especially of parturition) or *fear*; figuratively, *to wait, to pervert* (#2342). So, Jesus’ return will be so dramatic (especially for those who think He’s *already here*, because Satan claims to be the ‘Savior’, 2 Thess 2:3-4; Rev 13:5-6) that it’ll cause the people of the earth to tremble for fear. And even for those who were faithful to Jesus Christ (who didn’t worship Satan and therefore are pleasing to God) will still be filled with a profound fear (reverence) for Jesus Christ when they see Him finally return. But those who were not faithful (especially those who actively worked against Him, such as the kings and rulers on earth) will be ‘shaking in their boots’ as we say today. As we read above, in Rev 6:15-17, they’ll be frantically trying to find a place to hide from Jesus Christ when He returns... and that’s because they know *they are in trouble*! Isa 2:17-22 also documents this as well. And, because Jesus’ return will be so incredibly awesome (putting the ‘fear of God’ into everyone on earth) everyone *will* bow a knee to Him when they are gathered for the ‘judgment seat of Christ’ (2 Cor 5:10) and forced to confess that He really is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Isa 45:23-25; Rom 14:11-12) ...

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

*2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, **having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.***

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

*5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:***

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

*7 But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is **God** which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Phil 2:1-13

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

AMEN.