

Part 4 – The Lord Will Be High Above All

In part 3 we learned that, when Jesus Christ returns, the hills and mountains will ‘melt’ (like wax) because the earth will be shaken *so much* it causes the valleys to rise and the mountains (and hills) to fall down. As Isa 40:4-5 also says: *Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.* But, there’s also a spiritual application to this as well, for there will also be a *spiritual* ‘shake up’ when Jesus returns - to depose the wicked ones and install His righteous government. And after that, there will *never* be anymore shaking of the earth, nor of governments, because Jesus Christ is finally ruling as King of kings *forevermore*. And then we learned that, at the return of Jesus Christ, the heavens will declare the Lord’s *righteousness* because *that’s where He’s coming from* when He returns. And *all* people will see the glory of the Lord when the ‘heavens’ of this fleshly dimension split (open up, Rev 19:11) to allow Jesus Christ (and His massive angelic army) to come to earth. And that’s why God swore (in Num 14:21) that *all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD...* indeed it will!

Psalm 97

7 Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Now we begin to see another aspect of Jesus Christ’s return. While we’ve previously been told *how* He returns, and how the earth *will react*, we’re now told what happens to those *don’t* worship (serve) the Lord (YHVH). The word ‘**confounded**’ here means (by implication) *to be ashamed*, but also (by implication) *to be disappointed* or *delayed* (#954). And the word ‘**serve**’ means *to work* (in any sense); thus, by implication, it also means *to serve, till*, (causatively) *enslave*, etc. (#5647). And the words ‘**graven images**’ actually means *an idol* (#6459) and comes from a prim root that means *to carve, whether wood or stone* (#6458). And then the word ‘**boast**’ means *to be clear* (orig. *of sound*, but usually *of color*), *to shine, to make a show* and *to boast*; and thus, it also means *to be* (clamorously) *foolish, to rave, to stultify* and sometimes it can also mean *to celebrate* (#1984). And then the word ‘**idols**’ here means *good for nothing* and, by analogy, it also means *vain* or *vanity* - *specifically an idol* (#457).

So, when Jesus Christ returns, all those who are *not* truly worshiping the Lord (YHVH) will be *greatly* ashamed, as well as disappointed. Why? Essentially, it’s because they put their faith in the *wrong* thing. Today we often hear people (even Christians) say that you ‘just need to have faith’... but faith in *what*? That’s important. If we have faith in money, power, fame, our own abilities, in other people (including governments or organized Churches), false gods and idols (like Satan and his wicked ‘beast’ governing system) or even ‘traditions of man’ (which are *lies*),

we're going to be greatly disappointed *and* ashamed. As the Lord pointed out through His prophet Jeremiah...

*5 Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed** be the man that **trusteth in man**, and maketh flesh his arm, and **whose heart departeth from the LORD**.*

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

*7 **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD**, and whose hope the LORD is.*

8 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.

Jer 17:5-8

So, the *reason* those who serve 'graven images' [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>] will be greatly disappointed (and terribly ashamed) when Jesus Christ returns is because: instead of receiving blessings (which they are expecting, Mth 7:21-23), they will receive *cursings*. Only those who trust in the Lord (YHVH) wholeheartedly (and hope *in Him* instead of anything else) will receive *true* blessings. And, when Jesus Christ returns, those who serve (obey) graven images (which are essentially 'idols') will be greatly ashamed *because* – instead of being promoted - they'll be demoted and rejected by Jesus Christ (Mth 7:21-23). And idols can be anything that you trust, believe in and obey (work for) instead of our Heavenly Father (such as the government, money, entertainment, 'stuff', or even your own pride.. etc.). So again, they won't get what they are expecting - money, power, glory, etc. - by worshiping anything, or anyone, other than the true God (Yehovah), who loves us *so much* that He came to earth and died for our sins (as Jesus Christ) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>]. Because they reject (or do not remain faithful to) Jesus Christ, they'll be *punished* instead of *rewarded*. And for Christians who foolishly worshiped Satan thinking he was 'God' our 'Savior' (Jesus), this will be *deeply* painful, for they will realize how *totally* deceived by Satan (and sin) they really were (Mth 7:21-23).

Again, that's why those who serve (i.e. obey and work for - wittingly or unwittingly) 'graven images' (idols) will be greatly disappointed *and* ashamed. When they put their trust (and hope) in things like money (or Satan's wicked 'beast' system) or even 'traditions of man' (which are too often taught in Churches), they will *not* be saved from the wrath of God when Jesus Christ returns. *Only* those who *truly* believe in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ (and *remain faithful* to Him) *will be saved* from God's wrath, when Jesus Christ returns (2 Thess 1:10, 5:9; Rom 3:5-11, 5:9-11; Eph 5:6-7; Col 3:6-10). And, boasting in (foolishly trusting in) idols (such as money, power, fame, entertainment or 'traditions of man') *won't save us* when Jesus Christ returns or when we die (whichever comes first). And that's why this Ps 97:7 also warns those who are 'gods' to worship the *true* God, Yehovah (#3068). The word '**worship**' here means *to depress*, i.e. *prostrate* (especially reflexive, *in homage to royalty or God*) (#7812); but what's more

important is to worship Him *in your heart* **by accepting the truth**, which is found *only* in God's Word. As Jer 17:5 (above) points out, those whose heart *departs* from the Lord (YHVH) are those who *trust in man* (including 'traditions of man', which are truly *lies*), which also means trusting in, and serving, graven images (idols) of all sorts. Again, idols are simply things that we place *in our heart* **above** our Heavenly Father. So, we must ask ourselves where our affections really lay? In money? Power? Food? Sex? Entertainment?... or God's Word? As it is written...

*1 If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*2 **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

*5 **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth**; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

*8 But now ye **also put off all these**; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

*9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off the old man with his deeds**;*

*10 And have **put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:** [i.e. Jesus creates the 'new man' within us via His Word and Holy Spirit]*

Col 3:5-10

The word 'set' in verse 1 (above) means *to exercise the mind*, i.e. *entertain or have a sentiment or opinion*; by implication, *to be* (mentally) *disposed* (more or less, *earnestly in a certain direction*); intensively, *to interest oneself in* (*with* concern or *obedience*) (#5426). So, while we must live on this earth (in flesh bodies) we shouldn't live for the 'pleasures of the flesh' but for the will of God (1 Pt 4:1-2). And that's why Paul also urges us to 'mortify' our flesh body and put on the 'new man' (i.e. a new mindset which is created by the knowledge of Jesus Christ, via studying the Word of God). The word 'mortify' means *to deaden* and *to subdue* (#3499); so, it's our carnal inclinations (sinful desires [lusts], emotions and motivations) that we must work hard to deaden and subdue so they *don't control us*. As Paul also wrote in Gal 5:24: *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. The word 'affections' here means *an emotion or influence* (#3804) and the word 'lusts' means *a longing*, especially for what is forbidden (#1939). And it comes from a word that means *to set the heart upon*, i.e. *long for* (rightfully or otherwise) (#1937). And Paul explains this again, in Rom 6:6, when he wrote: *Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*. The word 'crucified' here means, figuratively, *to extinguish (subdue) passion or selfishness* (#4717). And this is a vital part of *truly* worshipping our Heavenly Father. If we don't do this – and let ourselves be controlled by our emotions, lusts,

etc. - then we are indeed worshiping false gods and idols, i.e. *images we conjure up* (grave *spiritually*) into our heart, which could also be called *fantasies*. So, if we have idols in our hearts, then we're not going to be accepted by our Heavenly Father (Ezek 14) and thus, we also won't be accepted by Jesus Christ when He returns. And when we trust in (and boast confidently in) idols (images we've created in our own heart and mind; things we lust after and work for that are *not* in line with God's Word) we're bound to fall, *spiritually*. As Rom 6 teaches, when we sin, we are servants to it and that ultimately means *you are a slave to Satan*. But, if you accept Jesus Christ, repent sincerely for your sins, and strive hard to stop sinning (from the heart) *you serve righteousness*, which is truly serving God (Jesus Christ). And that's the *only* way to have peace of mind in this life *and* to obtain true (lasting) blessings including being spared God's wrath when Jesus Christ returns. That's also the *only* way to *eternal* life.

So again, this is why those who serve, and boast (are confident) in false gods and idols will be deeply disappointed, and ashamed, when Jesus Christ returns. After all, the return of Jesus Christ proves that Satan is a liar (John 8:44). For Satan's great lie (as he told Eve, Gen 3) is that we don't need to obey God to find eternal life; he claims we can truly make up our own rules (our own version of reality, i.e. fantasies) and still live forever. But that lie will come crashing down when Jesus Christ returns, because Jesus will return with such power (and glory) that no one will be able to stop Him and His holy angels from taking the world over... not the kings or rulers of the earth, nor Satan nor his fallen angels. For, everyone will be gathered up and judged by Jesus Christ when He returns (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 that's why those who serve, and boast (are confident) in false gods (idols) will be deeply disappointed, and ashamed when Jesus Christ returns.

And that's also why this 7th verse (Ps 97) ends by calling the 'gods' to worship the true God, Yehovah. The word '**gods**' here is the Hebrew Word '**Elohiym**' (#430, sometimes written as 'Elohim) and can be used *as a title for Yehovah* (which means the Supreme God). But it's also used for *false* gods and even for *judges and kings* on the earth. In this Ps 97:7, '**Elohiym**' (#430) is being used to refer *to the judges and kings (rulers) on earth*. It's basically a call for them to stop sinning (serving false gods and idols) and worship (serve, i.e. obey) the true God Almighty (Yehovah, #3068) instead. As God said in Isa 42:8: *I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images*. So, while God allows rebellion to continue on earth for now, there **is** a time coming when Jesus Christ **will** return and *all rebellion will be put down for good*. It is at that time the Lord will glorify Himself (via Jesus Christ) because that's (Jesus' return in glory and power) what saves His faithful servants from the wicked ones.

Psalms 97

8 Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD.

So, this is, yet again, another aspect of the Lord's return (as Jesus Christ). While the prior verse (7) told us how disappointed, and ashamed, the unbelievers (and unfaithful Christians) will be when Jesus Christ returns, this verse tells us how happy Zion and the 'daughters of Judah' will be when Jesus finally returns. Zion is, of course, a mountain in Jerusalem (#6726) which David lived in after he (and the Israelite army) conquered Jerusalem (and made it the capital of the unified nation of Israel), which is why it's also called the 'city of David' (2 Sam 5:7). Over time, it became *synonymous for Jerusalem*, because it is such an important area *in* Jerusalem. So, Zion is used here to *refer to Jerusalem*, and the 'daughters of Judah' is simply referring to the smaller (or less powerful) cities in the southern kingdom of Judah. And, as many Scriptures declare (Ps 136:21, 147:2; Isa 52:9; Ezek 16:60-63; Joel 2:32, 3:16-21; Zech 1:16-17, 2:4-5, 12; Heb 12:22; Rev 3:12, 21:2-10, etc.), Jerusalem is where Jesus Christ *will rule from forever*; so that's why Zion (Jerusalem) and the 'daughter cities' of Judah are being focused on here. The point is that, when Jesus Christ returns to clean out, and then rule from, Jerusalem, even the 'cities' in that area will be 'glad' (blithe or gleesome, #8055) and 'rejoice' (with great emotion, #1523). And *why*? Because of the Lord's (#3068, Yehovah) judgments, which refers to His 'cup of wrath' that Jesus Christ *will* pour out upon the wicked people in those cities (specially Jerusalem – Jer 51; Rev 18, Zech 14, etc). Psalm 65 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/722] also spoke about this too, for it was a Psalm David wrote about Zion itself waiting for redemption. So, this verse 8 (here in Ps 97) is explaining the joy that Zion itself will have when she is redeemed by the Lord (YHWH) when Jesus Christ (God incarnate) returns and turns her back into a *holy* city again (Ezek 16 - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Ezekiel/293).

Psalm 97

9 For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

Now, this verse is explaining that Jesus Christ won't *only* be ruling over Jerusalem and the surrounding (daughter) cities, He'll be ruling the *entire* world, with Jerusalem as His capital. And, when Jesus Christ returns, He will prove – to the entire world – that He is (and thus, Yehovah is) high above all others called 'gods'. The word '**Lord**' here is, yet again, God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>] which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal** (#3068). So, His name *reveals* that our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is why He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And then, the words '**high above**' are actually a 'title' of our Heavenly Father. In the Hebrew, it's '**Elyown**' (sometimes spelled as '**Elyon**') (#5945), which means an **elevation**, i.e. (adj.) **lofty**. And, as title of God it means, **the Supreme**. He is the 'possessor of heaven and earth' (Gen 14:18-20), Who divides the nations 'their inheritance' (Detu 32:8). In Ps 83:18, He is 'over all the earth'. You can read more about this 'title' of Yehovah in the Companion Bible, apx 4 VI. And the word '**exalted**' here is a prim root that means **to ascend**, intransitively (**be high**) or actively (**mount**); and it's used in a great variety of senses, primary

and secondary, literal and figurative (#5927). And then the word ‘**above**’ means (in the context of this verse) **wholly, speedily**, etc. (often with other words as an intensive or superlative; especially when repeated) (#3966). And lastly, the word ‘**gods**’ here is again ‘**Elohiym**’ (#430, also spelled as ‘**Elohim**’ at times) and, as a ‘title’ of the Lord (Yehovah) it means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. But, as we’ve learned before, it can also refer to **judges** and **rulers** (such as kings) of the earth, which is how it’s being used here. But it can also be used to refer to false gods, such as fallen angels, even Satan himself. So, the Psalmist is clearly pointing out that, when Jesus Christ returns, *all* people on the earth will *finally* admit that the Lord (Yehovah) truly **is** ‘higher’ above all that is called a ‘god’ or that is worshiped (false gods and rulers). As it is written: *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one* (Zech 14:9). And, at that time (when Jesus Christ returns), **every** knee (of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth) *will* bow to Him *and* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Rom 14:11-12; Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:18-25) ...

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

*14 And there was given him **dominion**, and **glory**, and **a kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an **everlasting** dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which **shall not be destroyed**.*

Dan 7:13-14

*18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and **there is none else**.*

*19 I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, **I declare things that are right**.*

20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.

*21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and **there is no God else beside me**; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.*

*22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, **all the ends of the earth**: for I am God, and there is none else.*

*23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That **unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear**.*

24 Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

*25 **In the LORD** shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.*

We'll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.