

Part 5 – Light Is Sown for the Righteous

In part 4 we learned what happens to those don't worship (serve) the Lord (YHVH) when Jesus Christ returns: they will be *greatly* ashamed, as well as disappointed, *because they put their faith in the wrong thing*. 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 when the *true* Christ (Jesus) returns to take over the world. 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*. And, 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. And then, we also learned of the joy that Zion itself will have when she is redeemed by the Lord (YHVH) because, when Jesus Christ (God incarnate) returns, He will turn Zion (Jerusalem) back into a *holy* city again. But, we also learned 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 also prove – to the *entire* world – that He is (and thus, Yehovah is) high above *all* others called 'gods'. 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 also, **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) ...

Psalms 97

10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Now the Psalmist give us a wise admonition as well as explaining what happens when we do obey that admonition. And within this, we're given a *vital truth* about what *true* worship of the Lord entails. In order to truly love (and worship) the Lord (Yehovah, #3068) – who is the *only true* (and Supreme) God, *because* He is our Creator (Gen 1:1, Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11) – we **must hate evil**... yes, you read that right. In order to love the Lord (YHVH) we **must hate evil**. The word 'love' here simply means **to have affection for** (#157) but Rom 13:10 explains this better when it tells us that *love is the fulfilling of the law*. What law? God's Laws! And that also helps us to understand what He means when saying we must hate evil. We must hate the evil things people do because they harm other people. And usually, evil things are done under the disguise of being 'good' for people (2 Cor 11:13-15). So, it takes great discernment (with the help of God's Word and Holy Spirit) to discern good from evil. Now, the word '**hate**' here (in Ps 97:10) means **to hate personally** (#8130) and the word '**evil**' here means **bad** or (as noun) **evil** (natural or moral) (#7451). That means, in our heart and mind (our thoughts and emotions) we must *hate*

(i.e. have extreme dislike and disgust for) evil, which are those things which are contrary to God's Laws.

Now, this command to 'hate evil' goes against some 'traditions of man' which tells us we must 'love everybody'. And it is true that the Lord (YHVH) has commanded us to love others as ourselves (Lev 19:18); and Jesus 'raised the bar' on this command by telling us that (if we truly love Him) we will love one another as He does (John 13:34). However, loving others doesn't mean we *must* have fond feelings for them. As Rom 13:10 says, *love is the fulfilling of the law*. In other words, God commands us to treat others in the way His Laws teach us to do. And we're also not to try to avenge ourselves, nor have grudges against each other (Lev 19:18) because we need to *let go of* the bitterness inside so we don't become corrupted ourselves (Mth 18:35, Mk 7:20-23). But, as the Psalmist is pointing out (here in Ps 97:10), truly loving God really does mean we must *hate* (have extreme dislike and disgust for) the evil things people do, when we see it, *and* have no part in it. You see, as this verse 10 (in Ps 97) reveals, **true love has no part of evil**. That's why God commanded Israel to completely wipe out the heathen nations that were living in the 'Promise Land' they were about to inherit. It was because they had become so evil that *they were incorrigible*; and God did not want Israel to pick up any of their sinful ways (Ex 34:11-16; Deut 4:23-27, 11:16-17, etc.). And when they didn't do this (and picked up the heathen's ways) God *was* very angry at them (Jud 2:1-3) *because they were participating in evil* (i.e. not hating it). So, to truly love God (and Jesus) we *must* hate evil. Thus, contrary to what some teach today, hate is not always a bad thing. It depends on what we hate and what we do with that hate. You see, **to hate evil means having no part of it and to warn those who are participating in evil to stop doing such wicked things**. But, as Ps 37 also explains, our hating evil should *not* cause us to do evil ourselves, out of misguided anger for the wicked things done to us, or others. As Prov 8:14 says: *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate*. So, we cannot 'fear' (or love) our Heavenly Father (Yehvoah) unless we **hate** evil, which means **hating the evil things people do and refusing to participate in them**. But, to reiterate, hating evil does not mean to resort to doing evil ourselves, in an attempt to 'combat' the evil. We must 'hate evil' by obeying our Heavenly Father (i.e. God's Word). As Paul explained...

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rom 12:17-21

We overcome evil *by learning to do what's right*, which means *learning to obey God's Word*. And His word *doesn't* tell us to be walking matts, for we have *a right* to defend ourself, family, property and nation. And we *should* strive to get along with people, but *not at the expense of obeying God's Word*. Further, true love also involves 'tough love'. And so there might be times when people need that. And, insomuch as is in our authority to do so, we should. But, what we don't have the right to do (i.e. implementing the death penalty or other things God has given authority to the government to do) we must allow the government to take care of. And if they don't, we must pray to God for help and leave it in His hand. As Paul pointed out, vengeance belongs to God *alone* and He *will* take care of it – at the right time and in right way. And, we must also use *great* discernment when helping others [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/292>]. Paul told us to give our enemy a drink of water (or food) but that's only **if** you discern (with help from the Holy Spirit) that they *really* need it. And truly, the most important kind of 'food' and 'drink' you can give them is the Word of God (John 6:35, 63). For truth truly does pour 'coals of fire' upon the head of those who hate it.

Further, Prov 3:7 also wisely warns us: *Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil*. So, 'fearing' the Lord (YHVH) **is** departing from evil, which means also to *hate* evil – i.e. *don't have anything to do with it*. And that's because only those who fear God's punishments will depart from evil (Prov 16:6). And Prov 16:17 also tells us that *the highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul*. So, departing from evil (and hating it) is what 'preserveth' (#8104, guards and protects) our soul from corruption and, eventually, *spiritual* death (Rev 20:10-15; Ps 37:20). And, as Paul commanded his protégé, Timothy: *Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity* (2 Tim 2:19). So, in order to truly love our Heavenly Father, we **must** depart from evil. And to depart from evil we must therefore *hate it*. Otherwise, *we'll become evil ourself*. As the Psalms have also taught us...

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Ps 34:14-16

27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Ps 37:27-28

So, those who love evil **are those who do evil**... and *that's* why we **must hate evil**, because **to hate evil is the only way we'll ever stop doing it!** You could also look at this in the aspect that loving evil (not hating it) is taking sides with Satan, who is God's arch enemy; because he is

rebellious against our Heavenly Father and trying to get as many of God's children to rebel against our Heavenly Father too - which is to the detriment of our own soul, because following Satan will only lead us to spiritual death. As Rom 6:23 so succinctly says: *for the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*. So, while we should not let the emotion of hate cause us to harm God's children (even if they are doing wickedly) we must *hate the evil things they are doing* and *actively work to stop them*. But again, as Psalms 37 so well warned us [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/423], working against evil *must* be in line with God's Word. Thus, hating evil (and working against it) is not done by doing evil things yourself! So, **hating evil means you have an extreme dislike, and disgust, for it**. And that's why you not only refrain from doing evil yourself, but *work against it* – both of which are done by learning to obey God's Word, from the heart. And, to reiterate, God's Word *does* allow us to defend ourself, our property, our family and our nation (Ex 22:2, Deut 20). And, God's Laws also *demand* that the governments punish evil in ways that the common person is not supposed to, i.e. enforcing restitution for theft, corporal punishment (for minor offenses) and even the death penalty when applicable. You can learn more about God's Laws *by actually studying them*....

Exodus: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/88

Deuteronomy: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Deuteronomy/49

The Laws of YHVH <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/155>

Biblical Law Punishments summarized <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1026>

Now, in the latter part of this Ps 97:10, we're told that, when we do hate evil (proving we really love the Lord, YHVH), the Lord (YHVH) *preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked*. Now, it's important to understand that, this is actually **a vital part of God's Covenant** (Detu 28, Lev 26). And, the word '**preserveth**' here is a very important word to learn *and* remember. Most often, it's used when warning us to guard our heart and mind from whoring after false gods and idols, which will bring about our own destruction (physically and spiritually). Moses uses this word a lot, in Exodus through Deuteronomy, where it's usually rendered as 'take heed', 'keep', 'beware', 'be circumspect' and 'observe'. But it's rendered here as '**preserveth**' because this Hebrew word (shamar #8104) means **to hedge about** (as with thorns), i.e. **guard** and, generally, **to protect, attend to**, etc. So, the promise God gives us is that: **if** we are faithful to obey Him (from the heart), He'll *always* guard, protect and attend to us. So, 'preserveth' is not a bad translation, in this case. And the word '**soul**' here means **a breathing creature**, i.e. **animal of (abstractly) vitality** (#5315), which it's also been rendered as 'life' (ex: Gen 32:30; Deut 24:6; Josh 2:14; Ps 31:15, 38:12; Prov 1:19, 13:3). So, our soul is simply the *embodiment of our spirit*, of which our flesh body is - but we've also got a spiritual body, as the study on **Graven Images - Body, Soul and Spirit Analogy** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>] explains.

And then (going back to Ps 97:10, we're told that the Lord (YHVH) *preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked*). Now, the word 'saints' means **kind**, i.e. (religiously) **pious** (a saint) and has been rendered also as: godly (man), good, holy (one), and merciful (#2623). Essentially, the 'saints' are simply *those who sincerely love and serve our Heavenly Father* (the one and only true God) and remain faithful to Him (i.e. they don't apostatize - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/49>). And then the word 'delivereth' means to **snatch away**, whether in a good or a bad sense (#5337) and has been rendered many ways, such as to defend, deliver (self), escape, pluck, preserve, recover, rescue and save. So, the Lord (YHVH) guards and protects (even attends to) the souls (lives) of those who are faithfully serving Him. This means that He protects them physically *and* spiritually. As Jesus said...

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, **neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

John 10:27-30

Jesus spoke about His 'sheep', which is referring to those who faithfully follow Him whether they be of Israel or not. The word '**pluck**' here means **to sieze** (#726) and comes from a word that means **to take for oneself**, i.e. **to prefer** (#138). So, Jesus was giving us the *same* promise that the Lord (YHVH) did, here in this Ps 97:10. *No one* can snatch God's faithful servants away from Him *because* He protects them when they are dedicated to Him. And, as such, Jesus Christ (our intercessor, Rom 8:34) protects us. As Paul pointed out in Phil 4:7, the Holy Spirit is what *protects our heart and mind from being deceived* by Satan's lies, which are what causes many to turn away from the true God and Jesus Christ, as the 'parable of the sower' explains in Matthew 13 and Luke 4 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1288>]. But also, when we obey our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ (for they are one and the same, <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1013>) we are also going to be protected, physically, **because we are His servants**. This means, while there will be hard times for serving Him (2 Tim 3:12; John 15:20) He won't let *anything* happen to us that we can't handle and He certainly won't let us die before its 'our time to go'. As 1 Cor 10:13 *promises*, God (via the Holy Spirit) will *always* give us the strength to endure the hard times and, if need be, give us a way out of the troubles so we can continue to serve Him another day. And the Bible is full of examples of this (1 Cor 10:11) – for, from the prophets to David to Jesus to the apostles (including Paul) - God always delivers His 'saints' out of the 'hands' of the wicked, **so they can continue to help Him bring for the truth** (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) to a world in dire need of it. As it is written: *the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil* (2 Thess 3:3). And this also includes any temptations that are difficult for us to handle. As 2 Peter

2:9 says: *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*

And, this will be particularly important in the days shortly before Jesus Christ returns. For before Jesus Christ returns, Satan will actually be cast out of heaven, with his fallen angels (Rev 12:7-17, 2 Thess 2) for the purpose of ruling the world and trying to get all people to defect to worshiping him as God [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>]. Satan is truly obsessed with getting all of God's children to worship *him*, instead of our Heavenly Father, and the Lord (YHVH) will give him a *short* time on earth to test His children, for the specific purpose of getting the Gospel of Jesus Christ published throughout the *entire* world (Mth 24:12, Mk 13:10). And this will be done, not only through His two witnesses (Rev 11), but also *many other* faithful servants (Mth 24, Mk 13, Lk 21) who He uses to witness against Satan, his fallen angels, and all the wicked kings and rulers on earth. And this is why Jesus Christ won't be 'flying' anyone out of the earth (at *any* point in time - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/334>). He's only returning to earth *one time* and that's to put down the evil and install His own righteous government. So, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, He's coming *to say and rule* forevermore. But, before that, God wants the Gospel to be shared with the *entire* world (Mth 24:12, Mk 13:10), which is why Jesus prayed to God not to take His servants out of the world, but to 'keep' (#5083 to guard) them from evil, even *the* 'evil one' who is Satan himself (John 17:15). But, even before Jesus returns, the Lord (YHVH) *will* guard and protect His faithful servants *and* deliver them out of the hand of the wicked, just as this Ps 97:10 said *and* as so many other Scriptures declare (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, etc.). The special study on **Point A To Point B** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>] really 'hammers home' this fact.

Psalms 97

11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Now, this is another promise from our Heavenly Father, for those who hate evil (thus, proving they love Him). The word '**light**' here means *illumination* or (concrete) *luminary* (in every sense, including lightning, happiness, etc.) (#216). And it comes from a prim root that means *to be* (causative, *make*) *luminous* (literally and metaphorically). And the word '**sown**' means literally *to sow* but, figuratively, *to disseminate, plant* and *fructify* (#2232). And then the word '**righteous**' means *just* (#6662) and comes from a word that means *to be* (causatively, *make*) *right* (in a moral or forensic sense) (#6663). So, what's this really talking about? We can only understand this when we 'search the Scriptures' (John 5:39), which clearly tell us that *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all* (1 John 1:5). And that's why His Words are also the light too. As Prov 6:23 declares: *the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life*. Ps 119:105 also says that God's Word is as a lamp which lights our 'path' (course of life). So, in the Scriptures, **the Light is likened to truth** (Ps 4:6, 18:28,

27:1, 36:9, 37:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) **and darkness is likened to lies** (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14). And God has *separated the two* through His Son, Jesus Christ, **which is the Word of God** (Acts 26:18, Isa 42:6-16, 60:1-4, John 1:1-9, Gen 1:2-5). And someone who cannot see truth is likened to a blind person who cannot see physical light (Ps 146:8, Ezek 12, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 42:7, 16-20, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:15, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). And that's why Jesus said: *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life* (John 8:12). Paul explained it really well in his second letter to the Corinthians...

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

*4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, **should shine unto them**.*

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

*6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, **hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**.*

2 Cor 4:3-6

So, when this 11th verse (here in Ps 97) tells us that light is 'sown' for the righteous (those who strive to do what's right by learning and obeying God's Word), it means that God will 'sow' the light (the truth) *in our hearts and minds* **when** we *sincerely* seek Him through His Word. Jesus explained this rather well in the parable of the sower [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/381>] which teaches us that only those who have a *honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience* (Luke 8:15). So, the first part of this Ps 97:11 is simply telling us that God will help us understand the truth (the Light, which is His Word) when we sincerely strive to learn (and obey) His Word (the Light). Said another way, the Holy Spirit will 'sow' the truth in our heart and mind when we strive to do what's right. And that's why those who have an upright heart will be have gladness in their heart, which is what the latter part of this Ps 97:11 says. The word '**gladness**' means *blithesomeness* or *glee*, (#8057) and the word '**upright**' means *straight* (literally or figuratively, #3477) and comes from a word that means to *be straight* or *even*; figuratively, *to be* (causatively, *to make*) *right, pleasant, prosperous* (#3474). And the word '**heart**' means *the heart* but is also used (figuratively) very widely for the *feelings, the will* and even *the intellect*; likewise for the centre of anything (#3820).

So, while our heart is *a part of* our intellect, it's the part of us that contains our 'will' and thus, our feelings and emotions. You could even say our heart is where our 'free will' is. And those who have an 'upright' heart are those who love (and obey) the true God (Jesus Christ) with all their heart and mind. So, instead of having a crooked heart (like those who love to do evil and enjoy sinning) those who are upright love to do what's right (obey God). When God's Word is

truly the ‘object’ of your affections (Col 3), then your heart *will be upright because* you are *sincerely seeking* the Lord (YHVH) by studying His Word *and* striving to obey it, *wholeheartedly*. And that’s why you *will* have ‘gladness’ (blithesomeness or glee). Having a crooked mind (thoughts) and heart (desires, emotions) causes much pain and anguish in our ‘inner man’. As God said, *the wicked have no peace* (Isa 48:22, 57:21) and that’s because they always have a guilty conscience! But those who sincerely love the Lord (and hate evil) have a clean conscience (Heb 9:14; 10:22) because *the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin* when we ‘walk in the Light’ of God’s Word (1 John 1:7-10).

Psalms 97

12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Now, this Psalmist ends this beautiful Psalm by reminding us the importance of rejoicing in our Heavenly Father and giving thanks to Him, especially for His holiness. The word ‘**rejoice**’ here is actually the *same* Hebrew word that was rendered as ‘glad’ back in verses 1 and 8. So, it means *to brighten up* and, figuratively, *be* (or *make*) *blithe* or *gleesome* (#8055). And the word ‘**Lord**’ here is again God’s sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** which means (the) *self-Existent* or *Eternal* (#3068) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>]. 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 word ‘**righteous**’ again means *just* (#6662) and comes from a prim root that means *to be* (or *make*) *right* (in a moral or forensic sense) (#6663). Now, let’s remember, this Psalm is the ‘New Song’ that the righteous (those who love and obey the true God, Yehovah) will be singing when Jesus Christ returns. And we will indeed be blithe and gleesome when Jesus returns because He will depose all the wicked kings and rulers on earth (including Satan and his fallen angels) and install His own righteous government, *which we will get to be a part of!* As Isa 61:2 says, the return of Jesus Christ (when He pours out God’s ‘cup of wrath’ on the day of vengeance) IS what comforts those who mourn for the wickedness going on in the world. So, even though hard times are coming (*especially* during the ‘great tribulation’ <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>), we must remember that *the wicked will be ‘brought down’ by their own wicked words and works*. In our heavenly Father’s Word, we’re *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming out of their mouths* which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). So, there will be much to rejoice in when Jesus Christ returns. As the Lord (YHVH) said through the great prophet Malachi...

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

*2 But **unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.***

*3 **And ye shall tread down the wicked;** for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Mal 4:1-3

The ‘Sun of righteousness’ is Jesus Christ and He will return with healing ‘in His wings’ because wings are symbolic of His flying vehicles that Jesus and His angelic army return in [**You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392>]. And the ‘healing’ comes from the wicked being conquered and the righteous (those who fear God’s Name, Yehovah and Jesus) being promoted to ruling the earth (and given eternal life, Rev 20:4-6). And notice what verse 2 (above) says: those who fear God’s name will ‘*go forth and grow up as calves of the stall*’. God is giving us an analogy here to help us understand just how much we’ll be rejoicing (blithe and gleesome). When calves are young, they are often kept in pens (stalls) until they are old enough to go out on the pasture, and this is especially so if they are born in the cold months. The same happens to goats and sheep. But, when they are old enough (or the weather warms up) they are then allowed to go out and graze on the pasture... for the first time. And if you’ve ever seen calves (or lambs or sheep) get to go out onto green grass for the first time, you will instantly understand the thought our Heavenly Father is relaying to us here. It’s so delightful to see how excited and happy they are when they can freely run around and eat green grass, *for the first time*! They are SO HAPPY for their new freedom and delicious food they get... and *that* is what our Heavenly Father promises us! The freedom we’ll have when Jesus Christ returns, and puts down the wicked ones (Isa 24:22; Rev 20:1-3, Mth 13:40-43), and gives us authority over the earth will make us as happy as calves who get to run around and eat grass for the first time. As Jesus explained it, *then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father* (Matt 13:43).

And then the Psalmist (going back to Ps 97:12) ends this Psalm by telling us to *give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness*. The words ‘**give thanks**’ mean (in the context of this verse), literally, *to use* (i.e. **hold out**) **the hand**, especially to revere or **worship** (with extended hands) (#3034). And the word ‘**remembrance**’ means **a memento, recollection** and, by implication, **commemoration** (#2143). And then the word ‘**holiness**’ means **a sacred place or thing** or even **sanctity** (#6944) and comes from a prim root that means **to be** (or to **make, pronounce** or **observe as**) **clean** (ceremonially or morally) (#6942). And, as we learned back when studying Psalm 93, Psalms 93, 97 and 99, all these Psalms begin with the words ‘the Lord reigneth’ and end with the ‘thought of holiness’. And this tells us that, **when Jesus Christ returns to rule the world ‘all will be holy’** (Isa 23:18, Zech 14:20-21). This explains the cry of the ‘Zoa’ (Rev 4:8)

because *Jesus' judgments will prepare the way for His righteous rein*. So, not only will we be rejoicing (blithe and gleesome) when Jesus Christ finally returns (and pours out the long-awaited justice upon the wicked) but we'll also remember (forever) His holiness in doing so. As the 'angel of the waters' declares (in Rev 16:5): *Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, **because thou hast judged thus***. Rev 19:11 also tells us that *in righteousness he doth judge and make war*. After all, punishing the wicked **is what saves the righteous!** And that is a righteous thing indeed. As Paul pointed out in 2 Thess 1:6, when he wrote that: *it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you*. And, as Ps 145:21 also declares: *The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy*. And, even though Jesus Christ has not yet returned, it's still befitting for us to give thanks at the remembrance (thought of) His Holiness. For even now, *the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished* (2 Peter 2:9) ...

*7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*
Gal 6:7-9

*57 But thanks be to God, **which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.
58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord**.*
1 Cor 15:57-58

AMEN.