Review of Psalms 140-145

Now that we've finished Psalms 140-145, in this great "Deuteronomy Book" (the *fifth*, and *final*, 'book' of the Psalms), let's take a few minutes to review them…

So, **Psalm 140** (a Psalm of David) had the subject/title of "***Prayer and Praise***" because it was a *prayer for deliverance from the evil*, i.e. wicked men in the world. And David asked for deliverance from them (especially their leader) in a unique way; for he simply asked that the Lord (YHVH) would 'repay' them (for all the evil they had done to him) by causing them to be treated *in the same manner* they had treated *him*. And he also asked that their desired 'end' for him (death and destroying his good name) would <u>come upon them</u> *instead of* him. And David also professed his firm (Biblically based) conviction that we *all* 'reap what we sow'. So, those who do evil *will* indeed receive the evil they have done. And that's because our Heavenly Father *will* take vengeance for those who are unable to defend themselves. And that's why those, who receive His mighty salvation, will worship, and revere, Him with *all* their heart and mind.

And then **Psalm 141** (another Psalm of David) also had the subject/title of "***Prayer and Praise***" because (yet again) it was a *prayer for deliverance from the evil*, i.e. wicked men in the world. However, it was *also* a prayer for deliverance from 'self', i.e. our *carnal* mind (Rom 8:5-8), which is the part of us that *wants* to sin. And, that's why David asked for protection against unwise (or sinful) words, the temptation to sin, the influence of ungodly people, and the lures of worldly pleasure. And even if the Lord's protection came from a righteous person reproving (or correcting) him, David would consider it a kindness, because all of God's chastisements are for our good (Heb 12). And David also asked the Lord (YHVH) would protect him from all of the traps the ungodly people laid for him – by causing them to 'fall into' *their own* 'traps' (wicked devices and words) - while he 'crossed over' them safely. And this truly is a 'timeless' truth in God's Word. For we will *all* 'reap what we sow' (Gal 6) and, the ungodly *will* end up 'falling' into their own traps they set for the godly.

And then **Psalm 142** (another Psalm of David) also had the subject/title of "***Prayer and Praise***" because was also a *prayer for deliverance from the evil*, i.e. when he fled to a cave (likely in Adullam) because Saul (the king of Israel) was trying to kill him. And it was also a *Mas'-chil*, Psalm (i.e. 'Understanding' or 'Instruction' Psalm) because it taught us *how to trust in* the Lord (YHVH) *no matter what* hard times come upon us *and* no matter what emotions we may be struggling with. For, while David struggled with fear, and loneliness (while in the cave), he reminded himself that our Heavenly Father *knew* what he was going through and *was* going to take care of him. Therefore, this precious 'Mas-chil' Psalm also taught *us* how to get through the hard times, i.e. by learning to control our carnal emotions (which we all have). For, while it was quite natural for David to feel afraid, and lonely, *he didn't let those emotions control him*. Rather, *he fought his negative emotions* by <u>disciplining</u> his 'inner man' to *remember God's promises* to

take care of those who earnestly seek, love, and strive to obey Him (ex: Deut 4:29-31). And that's what we should strive to do as well!

And then **Psalm 143** (another Psalm of David) and had the subject/title of "***Prayer***". For, not only did David ask for deliverance from his enemies, but also for mercy, and instruction, from the Lord (YHVH). And, while we're not told *when* he wrote this Psalm, we were told he was *totally exhausted* (physically and spiritually) from being pursued by his enemies, who were trying to *kill* him. And that's *why* David wisely asked for forgiveness for his sins, and that the Lord (YHVH) would teach (even 'goad') him in the right direction, i.e. to learn how to better obey God's Word. And he also stressed *how much* he trusted in the Lord (YHVH) and leaned *only* upon Him for help. And, even though he was overwhelmed, from being *intensely* pursued by his enemies, he comforted himself by *remembering history*. For God's 'track record' *proves* He is *well able* to help us out of *all* our troubles. And he also wisely asked the Lord (YHVH) would deliver him from his troubles for *His* righteousness' sake, which means David knew it's within our Heavenly Father's righteous character to help those who are being *unjustly* persecuted. So, even though we're not without sin (Rom 3:23), we too can trust in our Heavenly Father's mercy to be shown to us *when* we're *earnestly* striving to serve (obey) Him as David was. For the history in the Bible tells us the Lord (YHVH) *did* deliver David from the troubles he was having when he wrote this Psalm, as well as *all* of his enemies throughout his life (ex: Ps 18). And that should give us *great* comfort to know *He'll do the same for us*, so long as we *continue* to earnestly strive to obey Him (from the heart) as David did.

And then **Psalm 144** (another Psalm of David) had the subject/title of "***Prayer and Thanksgiving***". For, not only did David *thank* our Heavenly Father for teaching (and helping) him how to fight successfully, but he also *prayed* for deliverance from the 'strange children' who were *very* deceitful, and corrupt, as well as for prosperity in the nation. And David used several descriptions to describe how our Heavenly Father helped him through *many* trials, and tribulations, he went through in His life. For, the Lord (YHVH) not only showed him much kindness (goodness) but also protected him (shield), delivered him, and gave David a place to *spiritually* flee to for protection, i.e. He was always *the* One David could trust in when he needed help! So, David *fully* relied on the Lord (YHVH) for protection, wisdom, guidance and strength. And that's why *all* of his successes in life (including his rule as king of Israel) were a result of God's intervention, in one way or another. So, David was careful to give the Lord (YHVH) *all the glory* for his military successes yet, was also sure the Lord (YHVH) would help him through the spiritual conflict he was experiencing when writing this Psalm. And that's why he knew he would be singing a 'new song' (of happiness) because he was confident the Lord (YHVH) would give him a *reason* to sing a new song, i.e. a 'happy' song instead of a 'sad' song (from his current troubles). And he also prayed for his nation, i.e. that their sons could grow up into 'strapping' young men, their daughters into beautiful young women, that the people would have more than enough crops, their flocks would thrive, and multiply, without undue problems, and that their

rulers (leaders) would be strong so there would be no invasions, captivity, nor screeches of anguish in the area (streets of the cities)… and this pretty much summarizes a safe and happy nation! And that's why David ended this precious Psalm by stating that the people (or nation) that experiences all the things David spoke of (in verses 12-14) will be *extremely* happy, i.e. blessed. But, he also pointed out that 'happy' is that people whose "*God is the Lord*" because he was linking together the fact that, *only* the people (individuals *and* nations) who worship the *Supreme* God (our Creator) will be safe, prosperous, *and* 'happy'!

And then **Psalm 145** (another Psalm of David) had the subject/title of "***David's Psalm of Praise***". And it's also a 'perfect and complete' Acrostic because there were *originally* 22 verses (apx 63 VIII) - for one verse was *left out* (between verses 13-14), likely through a copyist error. And, throughout the Psalm David not only promised to praise, extol, and bless the Lord (YHVH) but, he also prophesied of how others would do so too. And he also gave us examples of *what it means* to praise, extol and bless our Heavenly Father. So, certain verses summarize *why* our Heavenly Father *deserves* our praise, exaltation, and blessing. For the Lord (YHVH) truly is great (unfathomably so, vs 3), righteous in *all* His ways, and kind in *all* His dealings with us (vs 17). And that's because He is gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness (vs 8). Yet, there's also *conditions* to obtaining His great mercy (kindness), compassion, grace and patience. For we must *earnestly* seek Him (the truth), try to obey Him *from the heart* (and fear *to disobey* Him), as well as honor, and respect Him. And, when we do those things, the Lord (YHVH) is *always* faithful to 'preserve' (protect, guard and help) us, while those who are truly wicked (incorrigibly rebellions) will indeed be destroyed forever in the 'lake of fire' (after the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15). Further, the Lord's (YHVH) kingdom is unlike any other; for His kingdom *will* endure forever, as will His 'King', Jesus Christ! So, if *we* want to have a part in that *great* 'everlasting Kingdom' (and obtain *eternal* life) we should (as David taught us) also *willingly* glorify, praise, and bless His *holy* name (Yehovah) *always and forever*!

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.
Isa 45:21-25

AMEN.