Review of the Psalms - Chapters 101-106 (Numbers Book, part 3)

After studying through many chapters of the great book Psalms, one can certainly leave without remembering everything, for there is much spiritual meat in this great 'book of songs'. Therefore, this review is meant to help remind us what we've learned so far...

Chapter 101
In Psalms chapter one-hundred-one, part 1, we learned this Psalm is part of the section that is related to the '*Rest for the Earth Celebrated*" and the subject/title of it is "***The Coming King and His Rule***". And the 'rest' being spoken of here is *peace* for the earth, including the inhabitants (and nations) of the earth. So, this Psalm speaks about the 'coming King and His rule' which is, of course, prophetical of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. However, it does so in a unique way. For, it's a Psalm David wrote where he promises the Lord (YHVH) that he would rule Israel righteously. And that's *why* it's prophetical of Jesus Christ. Thus, David was a 'type' of the future King of Israel (and the world), Jesus Christ. And one of the first promises David made to the Lord (YHVH) is that he would 'sing' of 'mercy and judgment'. And this simply means David promised to execute judgment and justice (with mercy, where appropriate) among all of Israel, which (consequently) was a 'song' to the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. sweet 'music to God's ears', metaphorically speaking), for it pleased Him *greatly*. And we also learned that Jesus Christ *will* indeed rule with 'mercy and judgment' when He returns, *and* anyone who will be ruling with Him (in His incorruptible government) will *also* learn how to have good judgment, and mercy (kindness) in our own personal lives, albeit that doesn't mean we are to be a 'walking matt' for others. It simply means we should forgive others, from the heart, let the government enforce judgment and trust that God will take vengeance upon all those who are not punished by the government (which Ps 37 taught us also).

And we also saw David promise the Lord (YHVH) to walk in the 'perfect way' with a 'perfect heart', which means David promised to behave himself with great self-control, being careful to consider all circumstances, and possible consequences while *keeping God's Words* (the truth) in mind. And this is a vital quality for any ruler, as well as *all* people. For, if we want to be a part of the Kingdom of God (i.e. be allowed to rule with Jesus Christ when He returns) then we must learn how to behave ourselves in *the* 'perfect way' (according to God's Word) with a 'perfect heart' (an honest, clean and sincere heart, i.e. uncorrupted) so we *can* be accepted by Jesus Christ when He returns (unlike those Jesus spoke of in Mth 7:21-23). And we also saw David wonder how long it would take for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought to Jerusalem (Zion) which is where David lived at the time. This shows us that this Psalm was most likely written in between the failed, and successful, attempt to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Thus, this Psalm was written as David's way of asking God to allow His Ark of the Covenant (which was symbolic of His presence at that time) to come to Jerusalem, for David promised to rule righteously. And we also learned that today, we don't need to worship at any Temple, because we are no longer to offer blood sacrifices, since Jesus Christ has already *fulfilled* all of them with His own precious blood (Col 2:14; Eph 2:15; Heb 10:10). Thus, we can be close to God (and

worship Him) *wherever we are* when His Words, and Holy Spirit, *are within us*, just as Jesus promised in John 14-16.

In part 2 we learned of David's promise that he would not give partiality (in judgment or otherwise) to anyone, especially not to those who did wickedly, which is *often* how kings rule *and* judge. And then we saw David also promise he wouldn't focus, or concentrate, on anything wicked. He was fully committed to keeping his own 'inner man' (heart and mind) 'perfect' (upright, #8537) as well as working to enforce God's Laws in the nation, Israel. And, this is why He's a 'type' of the *true* 'King' of Israel, Jesus Christ. But, we should remember that **if** *we* want to be accepted by Jesus Christ (i.e. allowed to govern the world with Him, when He returns, Rev 20:4-6) we *must* <u>also</u> be committed to hating the 'wicked thing' (which is essentially apostasy and idolatry) and not allow any of that filth to have any impact upon us. And, when we fall short (as we all do at times, Rom 3:23) we must do as David did, and make a good repentance, which also means to work hard to clean up our ways, from the inside out. And David also promised that he would 'turn off' (keep away from him) a 'froward heart', i.e. a perverse (crooked) heart, which is a vital part of truly worshiping, and serving, our Heavenly Father. And, in the New Testament, Paul calls this putting off the 'old man' (i.e. the forward heart) and putting on the 'new man' (an upright heart). Again, that's what we should work to do as well.

And then, David also promised that: *I will not know a wicked person*. And this is best summed up in James 4:4, which tells us that *friendship of the world <u>is enmity with God</u>* and thus, *whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world <u>is the enemy of God</u>*. So, while we are sent into the world to serve Jesus Christ – and help Him to bring His wayward children back to God – we are not to be 'friends' with them. Why? Because doing so **will** *eventually* turn our love, and loyalty, *away from* our Heavenly Father. And while this doesn't mean we can't help unbelievers, work with them or be around them at times, we should be <u>very</u> careful about actually being friends with them because **we cannot have dual loyalties**. As the old saying goes 'birds of a feather flock together', i.e. ***you will become like the friends*** (those who you hang out, and fellowship, with) ***you choose***, whether you want to admit it or not. So, keeping our Heavenly Father as the most important person in our life – and serving Him as the most important duty in our life – is truly what pleases our Heavenly Father. Again, while that's what David committed himself to do in this Psalm, it's what *<u>we</u> should do as well*.

In part 3 we learned of *more* things David promised the Lord (YHVH) he'd do as king of Israel. The first thing was that he would silence (and punish when need be) anyone who secretly slandered (i.e. gossiped about) others. And slandering people (gossiping about them) is *clearly* something the Lord (YHVH) does <u>not</u> like; as Prov 6 points out, it's one of the six things God *hates*. But David also promised not to put up with those who are proud and haughty because, that too only brings about sin and corruption - which David didn't want in his kingdom, nor was it something the Lord (YHVH) wanted amongst His people either - for it too was amongst the things that God *hates*, as written in Prov 6. And, as John wrote, in 1 John 2:16, *the pride of life, is <u>not</u> of the Father, but is of the world*. And, James 4:6 (and 1 Pt 5:5) also declared that *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*. And then David also promised to work

hard to keep his government full of God-fearing people. Since David was committed to obeying (and enforcing) God's Laws, he truly *needed* a government (including counselors and servants) who were 'on the same page' with him, i.e. who had the same 'mindset' as he did. And really, that's exactly what Jesus Christ is working on too, i.e. Jesus Christ is (*right now*) forming His *eternal* government, which will be *incorruptible*. So, Jesus is looking for people who have a deep love for, and commitment to, God (and His Laws, i.e. the truth) but are also merciful (forgiving, Ps 101:1), upright in heart, have integrity and (most importantly) *can be trusted* to do the right thing and *faithfully obey* Him. And that's why it's *so* important we work to put off our 'old man' (corruption within our soul) and put on the 'new man' (think as Jesus Christ does) **if** we want to have a part in serving Jesus Christ's *eternal* government, when He returns to the earth as King of kings forever.

In part 4 we saw David promise the Lord (YHVH) that deceitful men, nor liars, would be allowed into his government. So, anyone who, *from their words to their actions*, tried to deceive others (i.e. tried to cause others to fall away [apostatize] from the *true* God and His Word [Laws] would not be in his government *because*, ***that's*** what creates a *corrupt* government! So, David was committed to only allowing men who were faithful to the *true* God (YHVH) in his government. And this is important, for a ruler needs a righteous government to help him rule if he intends on doing a good job at enforcing God's Laws. That's why this Psalm is also a type for the way Jesus Christ will rule too. And, without a doubt, Jesus' eternal government will *not* have *any* 'deceitful people', nor habitual liars, in it either, which is why His government will be righteous *and eternal*. After all, being deceitful (lying, *especially* to cause people to fall away from the Lord) is the way Satan governs. And then David also promised the Lord (YHVH) that he would deal with all the judgments of the day *early* in the morning, and to make sure the condemned are punished *swiftly* (by the end of the day if applicable). And, he also promised to 'cut off' (destroy) all idol worshipers from the city of the Lord (YHVH), which was (of course) Jerusalem. And enforcing God's Laws with 'mercy and righteous judgment' (as he promised to rule with in verse 1 of this Ps 101) is *exactly* how you do get rid of the wicked doers (and the idol worshipers) while protecting the innocent and giving mercy to those who sincerely repent.

In other words, *punishing evil is how you clean the land*, which is *exactly* what Jesus Christ will do, when He returns. And, while the wicked certainly will be punished when Jesus Christ returns, no one will die spiritually *until after* the thousand years He rules (Rev 20). That's because God wants His children to be taught the truth, *without any satanic interference*, which is why Satan himself will be put in solitary confinement (Rev 20:1-3) and the others who truly are wicked will be imprisoned (Isa 24:17-23; Matt 13:40-42) so they can't interfere with the vital teaching that will be going on. So, while David was making these promises to 'make his case' as to why God should allow the Ark of the Covenant to come to Jerusalem (and he did a good job of it), he also (and probably unwittingly) was prophesying what the reign of Jesus Christ will be like, *as well as* what His *incorruptible* (and thus, eternal) government will be like. There's not going to be *any* partiality in judgement, i.e. favors given to anyone, nor will the innocent (or righteous) be afflicted anymore. Those who do what's right *will* be rewarded and those who do what's wrong *will* be punished. As it is written, God is *not* a respecter of persons (Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom

2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, John 12:46-48, Col 3:24-25) and that means *neither is Jesus Christ*. So, He also shows no partiality, nor favoritism; but thankfully, He *is* compassionate, and forgiving, when we *sincerely* repent. After all, God truly desires all His children to repent, so they don't have to die, *spiritually* (2 Pt 3:9). That's *why* He came to earth *Himself* (as Jesus Christ) and *died for our sins* [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344], so we *could* be forgiven **if** we only believe in Him, repent for our sins, and *work hard* to do what's right, *from the heart*.

But, just because Jesus Christ is loving, compassionate and forgiving doesn't mean He allows the wicked to get away with anything (without sincere repentance). Therefore, Jesus Christ *will* punish the wicked 'with a vengeance', when He returns, as He pours out God's 'cup of wrath' upon them (1 Thes 1:6-10). And that's *why* He will fulfill this 8th verse, *and* rule the rest of the way this great 101st Psalm speaks of. And, if you truly love our Heavenly Father, this should give you *great comfort*. As Isa 62:1 says, the punishing of the wicked IS what comforts the righteous.

Chapter 102

In Psalm one-hundred-two, part 1, we learned that the subject/title of this Psalm is "***The King, in His Humiliation and Coming Glory as the Eternal***". And therefore, it's very *prophetical* of Jesus Christ. But, this Psalm is also good to remember when we get 'down an out' from living in the world. For, the first lesson we learned from the Psalmist was how to humbly beseech our Heavenly Father when we're having hard times, *especially* when we are *really* needing help *quickly*. Thus, we saw that, after the Psalmist begged the Lord (YHVH) for help, he began to tell Him *why* he needed help (so quickly). And, as is common in the Psalms, he used analogies to explain his dire situation. So, he first off said that his *days are consumed like smoke*, which implies he didn't think he had long to live. And then he also said that his *bones are burned as an hearth*, which showed that his flesh body was also suffering from the internal pain he was in. And we *know* he was having deep internal anguish *because* the subtitle told us that this Psalm was a prayer of someone who was 'afflicted', which means *to be depressed, in mind or circumstances* (#6041). And yet he also confessed his heart was smitten (in verse 4) and even likened it to withering grass to explain how he *was quickly losing hope*. And, again, his internal anguish was having a *deeply negative* influence on his flesh body, for he was so stressed out that he even forgot to eat; and it's quite likely he didn't even *have an appetite*, which is common for people who are terribly distressed (or depressed).

In part 2 we continued to learn of the anguish the Psalmist was having, both inwardly and outwardly. And he continued to use analogies to explain his feelings *and* troubles. He spoke of how thin he was getting (dangerously close to starving), how unclean and lonely he felt, and how his enemies mercilessly slandered him (continuously) and even called him accursed (and possibly even made an oath together to destroy him). And we learned he was so grief stricken, from the hard times, that it was as if he wept so much his tears became his drink and the ashes people put on their heads (as an outward sign of mourning and grief) became his food. And we also learned the Psalmist felt as though the Lord (YHVH) was chastening him, even to the point that he was dying a *slow and painful* death. And we also looked at how these things truly were a good 'type' for what Jesus Christ went through. For He most definitely had enemies, who did

mock and curse Him (even claiming He had a 'devil' several times). And, while Jesus Christ never had to be chastised by the Lord (YHVH) (because He *never* sinned), He did suffer terrible humiliation (mocking), beatings and the excruciating death (slow and painful, just as this Psalmist was describing) via the crucifixion on the cross. Yet, He did so to pay (atone) *for our sins* (as Isaiah 53 foretold of). But, just as this Psalmist described the kind of humiliation, pain and sufferings Jesus would go through, it also described His "***Coming Glory as the Eternal***".

In part 3 we saw the Psalmist begin to comfort himself by *remembering* of some basic facts about our Heavenly Father. The first of which is the fact that He has *always* existed and *always will*. And even though many generations have gone by, since the time the Palmist wrote this Psalm, His fame endures *to this very day*. And then the Psalmist began to think of God's mercy *instead of* his misery, which (again) is what comforts us during the hard times. And he then spoke of his assurance (from the Scriptures) that the Lord would arise and have mercy on Zion, and how the 'set time' - for God to 'arise' (take action) and comfort (and favor) Zion (Jerusalem) – *would* come. And that 'set time' is incredibly prophetical of the return of Jesus Christ, which *does* have a 'set time'. And *we* can learn *when* that 'set time' is getting close by learning the things Jesus warned us about in the Scriptures (such as Mth 24, Mk 13 and Lk 21). And then the Psalmist said that God's servants would *take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.* And this simply means that those who faithfully serve Jesus Christ *look forward to* the return of Jesus Christ, when He will totally demolish (turn to dust) the Temple that the *false* Christ (antichrist, i.e. Satan) abides in, while he's on earth (for he's coming *before* the true Jesus returns). And that will cleanse the earth so that the new Temple (and New Jerusalem) can be built, which is what the 'stones' (that the Psalmist spoke of) truly symbolize. So, while this Psalm certainly has a physical context to it, it's incredibly prophetical, as well as educational. For (to reiterate) it teaches us to overcome the hard times we go through in life by studying, *and remembering*, the promises of God. For they *will* come to pass. The wicked *will* be punished and the righteous *will* be rewarded. And *nothing* can change that fact. So long as we don't forsake our Heavenly Father (apostatize) He'll never forsake us!

In part 4 we learned of the *reaction* that the 'heathen' and the 'kings of the earth' will have, after the *true* King of kings (Jesus Christ) returns and takes power (cleansing the evil and installing His righteous government). And, without a doubt, all those who *don't* faithfully love, and serve, Jesus Christ (even self-professed Christians, Mth 7:21-23) *will* fear the 'name of the Lord' when Jesus Christ returns, for they will receive 'the cup' of God's wrath at that time. And then we learned that, after all of God's 'cup of wrath' (at the 'day of vengeance') is poured out, and after the 'judgment of Christ' (2 Cor 5:10) is finished, ***then*** the Lord (YHVH) will 'build up' Zion again, which means He'll 'build' it up (in righteousness) and glorify it ***with His very presence***, for the 'glory of the Lord' IS the presence of God. And then we also learned that Jesus doesn't (and won't) despise the prayers of those who are faithful to Him (for they are kept safely in a 'bottle', Rev 5:8, 8:3-4). For truly, His 'vengeance' upon the wicked ones is *in response to* the prayers of the faithful; and further, all the faithful ones *will* be given *eternal* life *and* allowed to reign with Him, when Jesus finally returns to Zion (Jerusalem).

And then, we learned the Psalmist wasn't just writing this Psalm for *future* generations, but (more specifically) for the 'last' generation of this earth age… and that is *exactly* what generation **we** are living in *today*! And we know this from what Jesus warned us of in Mth 24, Mk 13 and Luke 21, which is why He told us to learn the 'parable of the fig tree'. For, when we see the things He described (in Mth 24, Mk 13 and Luke 21) begin to happen, we know His return is getting near. And the first thing He warned us of is *deception*, which is already well underway. For the 'false figs' (i.e. the bad figs of Jer 24) have already begun to plant themselves in the 'land of Israel' (i.e. in Palestine in 1948) and that **is** the 'fig tree' 'shooting forth' her leaves *because* they are setting up the 'abomination of desolation' that Jesus warned us of. In other words, they are preparing the world (setting them up for) the *great* deception, i.e. they are setting people up to accept the *first* 'Christ' that comes (who is Satan), when he's *really* the old Devil himself (2 Thess 2; Rev 12). So, we who are living today *are* living in the time frame this Psalm was written for.

And then we also learned that *the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD,* which was prophesying of how the Holy Spirit (given to those who believe in Jesus Christ) would create a 'new heart' *and* mind in those who accept Him. And those who have had this internal change within them (i.e. put on the 'new man') are part of 'New Israel' (no matter what race they are), which means they'll be given eternal life and allowed to rule with Jesus when He returns. And that's *why* they will praise the Lord (YHVH) when Jesus Christ returns. So, this Psalmist is not only prophesying of the Holy Spirit which would come upon God's children (Israelites and non-Israelites who accept Jesus Christ) and 'create' a *new heart* within us (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10; 10:16), but also of "New Israel" which would be *created* from all those who truly accept Jesus Christ and thus, allow Him to 'create a new man' within them, so they *can* be fit to be a part of His eternal government.

In part 5 we learned *why* the Lord (YHVH) will return 'with a vengeance' at Jesus' Second Advent, i.e. it's because of the things He sees happening on earth. And, just because *we* cannot see the Lord (YHVH), when we are in this dimension (in our flesh body), *doesn't* mean He can't see us! For truly *He can*. And, as many Scriptures confirm, He not only sees all we do, but He can even see what goes on in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts). And, one of the main things the Lord (YHVH) is watching all people on earth for is, to see who will call out to Him for help. And specifically, He's watching to see if they'll call out for help from the *spiritual* bondage (via deception) that Satan has us in when we *willingly* sin (rebel) against our Heavenly Father. For, it's truly our Heavenly Father's will that all of His children be saved from spiritual death (being blotted out of existence) and that's why He watches what goes on in the earth so closely. So, He not only takes good care of His faithful servants (those who have already come to a good repentance) but He's also watching closely for anyone who is a willful sinner (even the wicked ones) who will turn back to Him and repent; because He *will* forgive anyone of their sins when they believe in Jesus Christ (which means sincerely repent of their sins, work to learn His Word and strive to obey it *sincerely*). And, that's *why* He gives us His Holy Spirit, after all; because His Holy Spirit (the truth, His Word) IS what frees us from spiritual bondage to sin and Satan (i.e. lies and deception).

And then we also learned He's also watching what goes on in the earth to ensure His Name is eventually declared (and praised) in Zion, i.e. Jerusalem - which is something that *will* be done when His faithful servants testify for Him during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19, Rev 11), as well as when Jesus Christ returns. For God has promised *all* knees will bow to Him and everyone *will* be forced to confess He *truly is* the King of kings and Lord of lords, at that time. And, we also learned that, when Jesus Christ returns, He'll gather *all* people (good and bad) and separate them for judgment, so that the Millennial teachings can begin. And, thanks to the righteous rule of Jesus (and His faithful servants), people will finally be taught the truth and experience the blessings of a truly righteous government. As Isa 9:7 declares: *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.* So, there's much to look forward to at the return of Jesus Christ; that is, so long as you are a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. Those who hate Him, are 'workers of iniquity' and worshiped Satan (and his wicked beast governing system) will be truly 'shaking in their boots' and 'crying their eyes out' when He returns. But, hopefully, many of them will be saved during the Millennium, so they too can learn the joy of praising, loving and serving our Heavenly Father instead of sin (Satan).

In part 6 we saw the Psalmist again speak of his failing health by pointing out (again) how he didn't think he had much time left to live. Yet, he also acknowledged that our Heavenly Father's 'years' endure 'throughout all generations', which is simply another way to say 'forever' (as His name, Yehovah, reveals #3068). Truly, our life in the flesh is short (very temporary); and the older you get, the more you realize this! But, in contrast, our Heavenly Father has *always* existed and *always* will. Then the Psalmist began to speak of how God created heaven and earth and pointed out that (unlike the Lord, Yehovah) even they will perish (be changed and cleansed), by fire, at the end of the Millennium (and then changed into the *eternal* heaven and earth that the overcomers will live in with the Lord/Jesus). And he did so to (again) make the contrast between our Heavenly Fathers eternality (He's always existed and always will) verses His creation, which *does* have a beginning and (some) *will* have an end (i.e. this 'earth age', along with the incorrigible rebels). And the Pslamist ended this lovely Psalm by looking forward to those who will 'endure forever' with our Heavenly Father. All those who are spiritually begotten by Jesus Christ (via His Holy Spirit and Word) will indeed 'continue' (to dwell on earth with the Lord) and will be established (set up) as rulers with Jesus Christ forevermore.

So, this Psalm 102 (along with Ps 22) not only taught us that we *all* will have hard times (even bad health) while living in the flesh, but if we keep our heart and mind focused on God's Word, the Holy Spirit will always help us through all things. Yet, these Psalms (22, 102) also teach us that, in order to be glorified with Jesus Christ (i.e. given eternal life and allowed to rule with Him forever) we *must* endure the hard times *patiently*, just as Jesus Christ did. After all, the hard times strengthen our faith and teach us to be patient, so we can learn how to perfectly obey our Heavenly Father, which his *what* brings salvation to our souls.

Chapter 103

In chapter one-hundred-three, part 1, we learned the subject/title of this Psalm is "**The Coming Kingdom**", which looks forward (prophetically) to how God's creation *will* 'bless' Him, when Jesus returns to rule the earth forevermore. And we learned that 'blessing' the Lord (YHVH) can mean several things, the first of which is that it's an act of adoration, which is why praising Him is part of 'blessing' Him. But, 'blessing' the Lord (YHVH) also means 'showing forth His salvation' each day. So, we should 'bless' Him through our words, and actions, in our daily life. Thus, 'blessing' our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is also ***helping others to get to know Him***, whether that's done by planting seeds of truth, through the way we speak and act (i.e. in accordance to God's Word) and/or using the gift(s) God has given to us. So, you could even say that 'blessing God' is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ via our good words (and works), using our God-given gifts, and even through our countenance, i.e. the true peace of mind we have, *despite* living in such a world full of sin and wickedness. But, this Psalm also speaks of many *reasons* we have to 'bless' the Lord, *even today*; which is why David also told us to 'bless' the Lord (YHVH) by <u>not</u> forgetting *all* His benefits. So, being thankful to our Heavenly Father is another critical part of 'blessing' Him. However, it's also healthy for our soul; for being grateful for what we have helps to keep covetousness (idolatry) out of our inner man (heart and mind).

And then, David began to give some examples of the Lord's many 'benefits. And the first 'benefit' he reminded us of, is all the times our Heavenly Father has graciously forgiven our iniquities - which means our sins, which *stem from* a perverse (unclean) spirit (heart and mind). And, this is truly something to be grateful for because, even after we've accepted Jesus Christ, we're still going to sin (even though we try not to), as Paul pointed out in Rom 3:23. But, when we repent sincerely, we're *always* forgiven *totally*, so long as we believe in Jesus Christ and are earnestly repentant (sincerely sorry and strive to change our sins, from the heart). And then David also reminded us that our Heavenly Father is also gracious to heal all our diseases. And this is another thing we all have to be grateful for because, we all get sick at times. And sometimes our sickness might only be in our own heart (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and mind (thoughts). But, if we come to our Heavenly Father and ask for a healing, He's quite gracious to give it, especially if we are faithful to study His Word (which is what heals us inwardly) and to strive to take care of our flesh (which is what heals our flesh). But, even if we have a flesh sickness that lasts a while, we should *still be thankful* for the many times (in the past) He's healed us (physically and spiritually). For that only reminds us of His abundant grace and mercy, which gives us hope (and assurance) He will continue to heal us in the future, if we keep our faith in Him strong. And, since we all have to die someday (Heb 9:27), it might not be in God's will to heal our fleshly diseases. But at the very least, we can come to Him for *spiritual* healing, so we can depart this flesh body with *peace of mind* that we'll soon be with our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ), which is 'much better' (2 Cor 5).

In part 2 we learned *more* reasons we have to 'bless' our Heavenly Father (YHVH). And one of them is the fact that our Heavenly Father delivers us from all sorts of 'destructions', both physically and spiritually. For, He very often saves us from accidents, or from people who want to harm us, and even from our own mistaken actions that put our flesh lives in jeopardy. But, the

most important deliverance (redemption) is, of course, saving us from *spiritual* death through the Jesus Christ, *in whom we have redemption, through his blood,* i.e. ***the forgiveness of sins*** (Eph 1:7). For, *by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained* ***eternal redemption*** *for us* (Heb 9:12). And this also means that Jesus Christ (via God's Word and Holy Spirit) also delivers us (spiritually) from *lies* that harm our inner man (and eventually will cause us to die, spiritually). And we truly need His help (to understand truth) because most lies are *incredibly* deceptive. As Paul warned us, in 2 Cor 11:13-15, those who teach lies do so by *disguising* themselves as the 'apostles of Christ' and 'ministers of righteousness', just as Satan disguises himself as an 'angel of light' (2 Thess 2, Rev 13). Thus, the 'lies' they present are *disguised* ***as truth*** (a.k.a. traditions of man). And, when we *believe* something is true, then *we'll act upon it*. And *that's* (believing in lies) what causes us to 'fall away' (apostatize) from the true God (YHVH) *and* the true Christ (Jesus).

And then, we also learned another 'benefit' we should 'bless' our Heavenly Father for is the fact that He *crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies*. This simply means He graciously sheds His kindness and compassion on us when we're *sincerely* trying to learn His Word *and obey Him*. And He thus protects us from both physical *and* spiritual harm. Thus, our Heavenly Father *saves us from* falling away, from our faith in Jesus (apostasy), when we *earnestly* study His Word and *sincerely* work to kick out our sins (from the heart) and obey our Heavenly Father (God's Word). And, even when we try (sincerely) to obey our Heavenly Father, we still fall so short from His glory (righteousness) that we're all *as an unclean thing,* and *all our righteousness's are as filthy rags* (Isa 64:6). And that's *why* we must accept the blood that Jesus Christ shed to atone for our sins (Rom 5:11), repent of our sins and keep working to learn (a*nd obey*) His Word. This, over time, does change us (inwardly) from someone who used to sin *willingly* to someone who loves our Heavenly Father *deeply* and earnestly works to obey Him, for that **is** what saves us (physically and spiritually) from many destructions (again, physically and spiritually).

And, we also learned that another reason we should 'bless' our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is because He *satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's*. This not only means He generously gives us good physical food to eat (that keeps us healthy and gives us energy and strength) but He also helps us learn to live within our means and provides us with a job to which we can provide for ourself and family. However, this also has a spiritual application, for the food we *truly* need (even more than fleshly food) is *spiritual* food (truth) that can *only* be found in God's Word (the Bible). So long as we put out the effort to study His Word (for ourself), He'll help us to *understand* it, which does feed our inner man *with truth* (John 17:17), which is the *spiritual* food we *need* to live forever (John 6:63).

In part 3 we saw David turn from speaking of how we should 'bless' our Heavenly Father (YHVH) to explaining *how* He rules. Thus, he revealed one of the thigs that is most important to our Heavenly Father – protecting His children from others who try to harm them (i.e. Satan and all those who serve him). Therefore, a key quality of our Heavenly Father is that (because He loves His children so much) He watches what goes on in the earth (as we learned back in Ps 11:4

and 102:19-20) to see that righteousness and judgment *are* enforced *for all those who are oppressed* (spiritually and physically). And, this is actually *why* He gave Israel (via Moses) His righteous Laws. For God's Laws protect the innocent *and* punish the wicked. Further, God's Laws also teach us *the difference between right and wrong*, and detail what the government is delegated to do verses what we, as individuals, are supposed to do. But, importantly, our Heavenly Father also promises that: even if government doesn't enforce His Laws (to execute righteousness and judgment), He'll *still* hear the cries of those who are oppressed. And we learned of several examples of this, from the way He judged Sodom and Gomorrah, to the way He freed Israel from Egyptian bondage, to the way He saved David many times throughout his life. Yet, our Heavenly Father also promised, specifically, to hear (and save) *individuals* who were oppressed. But, a key *stipulation* for God to hear our 'cries' to Him (and saving us) is that we fear (and revere) Him and 'call upon Him' in truth, which means we *must* be **sincerely** seeking truth (His Word). And that also means we *must* be willing to see our sins and kick them out. And this is as true for us living today, as it has been throughout *all time*.

And then, we also learned how the Lord (YHVH) *made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel*. And this simply means God truly revealed His *holy characteristics* to His people, Israel. Thus, the Lord (YHVH) 'made known His ways' (His 'acts' of righteousness and judgments) to Moses *through* giving His Laws to him (to give to Israel) *and* also showing Israel many miracles, which were 'acts' He performed *that validated* His power *and authority* to be their only "God". And, this point is included here - in this Psalm that speaks of the "Coming Kingdom" (i.e. Jesus' return) - *because* our Heavenly Father will *still* be executing righteousness and Judgment *when He returns* via Jesus Christ. Thus, He's not done showing His 'ways' to the world!

In part 4 we learned of another part of how our Heavenly Father rules, for He is truly *incredibly* compassionate, gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. And, while He *does* want all His children to obey Him (because it's to our benefit to do so, Deut 10:13), He knows we're not 'perfect' (i.e. without sin) while in these flesh bodies (which is *why* He sent Jesus to atone for our sins, Rom 5:11; Col 1:14; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:12-15) and that's ***why*** He's *so very* compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. We also learned that our Heavenly Father doesn't *always* chastise (or punish us); He *only* does it when we *need it* because He sincerely loves us, and *wants* us to come to a good repentance, so we can live eternally with Him (Rom 6:23). *And*, after we have come to a good repentance, He also *doesn't* want us to go back to *habitual* sinning (as a way of life), so that's why He's faithful to ***continue to*** chastise those who He loves. As Paul explains (in Heb 12), God chastises us *for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness*. And then we learned our Heavenly Father (YHVH) also does not treat us (reward) according to our iniquities (corrupted heart and mind), which means He gives us a *lighter* punishment (chastisements) than we really deserve… *so long as* we sincerely repent and strive to obey Him (from the heart). And then David gave us an analogy - of how infinitely higher the heavens (sky and outer space) are compared to us on earth – which expresses the *infinite* mercy (kindness) God has *towards those who fear* (and revere) Him. And then David gave us *another* analogy, to explain God's *infinite* mercy (kindness), towards those who fear (and

revere) Him. For, as far as east and west are from each other (infinitely far apart) *that's* **how far** the Lord (YHVH) has removed (forgiven) our transgressions (rebelliousness, i.e. habitual sinful lifestyle) from us (after we repent sincerely, of course). So, David's really done a good job 'laying out' the immensity of God's compassion, grace, mercy and long-suffering… *to those who* love, fear (and revere) *and obey* Him.

In part 5 we learned of another analogy, and it's one we can *really* relate to: the relationship between a father and his children. And the *reason* David used such an *intimate* analogy is so we can *fully* understand *why* our Heavenly Father is ***so*** compassionate, gracious, longsuffering and merciful towards *those who fear* (and revere) Him. So, just as an earthly father (or mother) has love and compassion towards his children, so too does our Heavenly Father towards us; but the stipulation is that we *must* 'fear' Him, which means to *fear to disobey God* (Prov 16:6) but also that we should have a *profound* (adoring and awed) respect for our Heavenly Father (YHVH). And, we also learned that God *doesn't* consider us His 'children' when we *don't* 'take after Him', i.e. when we sin, we are *not* acting like Him, for He is *without iniquity* (Deut 32:4) and *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17). And this is especially true when we are habitually sinning, as a lifestyle (i.e. we don't care about obeying Him). Therefore, those who He *does* consider to be His children are those who come to a good repentance, earnestly seek Him (through studying His Word) *and strive hard to obey Him*, which means learning (and trying hard) to do what's right, from the heart (i.e. 'fear' Him). And thus, when we fall short (as we all do at times), He does forgive us *because* we're sincerely repentant and *trying* (sincerely) to do what's right (i.e. obey Him).

And then we also learned another reason God has love, and compassion (towards those who fear Him) is because He knows we're in a flesh body, which is very hard to control sometimes, even when we are *sincerely trying* to obey (fear) Him. But, as long as we keep trying, sincerely, to learn His Word and obey Him (from the heart) He does have great compassion, mercy, grace and long-suffering towards us. And then we also learned that our Heavenly Father knows our 'frame', which means He knows *when* we were conceived *and* what our purpose in life is. But, we also learned that our Heavenly Father knew us from *before* we were *conceived*, for He truly created all of us *before* this flesh 'earth age' came into existence. And we also learned that 'first' earth age was when God allowed Satan to rule His children, on this earth. But, because Satan rebelled, and caused many of God's other children to follow in that rebellion, God destroyed that earth age and installed this earth age - so that all His children could come to earth, in a flesh body, and have the *opportunity* to find salvation (and *eternal* life) through Jesus Christ.

So, when David said God knows our 'frame', it's speaking not only of our flesh conception, but even that God knows who we were *and* what we were like (i.e. if we loved Him, or not) back in the 'first earth age'. Thus, God truly knows how to help each individual come to a good repentance, **if** they are only willing to hear His calls to do so. And this shows us why our Heavenly Father has *so much* love, compassion, mercy, grace and long-suffering towards His children, especially those who 'fear' Him. And, as 2 Pt 3:9 says, God hopes that even His rebellious children (aside from Satan and the fallen angels who are already condemned to

spiritual death) will repent (at least by the end of the Millennium) so they *can* live forever with Him in 'eternity'.

In part 6 we learned of another analogy David used, wherein he likened the days of our life in a flesh body to grass, and flowers in a field, because: like grass and flowers in a field, in the youth of our flesh life (i.e. the morning) our flesh body does grows up and flourishes. But, also like the grass, and flowers in a field, as we age (the evening, or 'twilight' of flesh life) we then 'withereth' (literally) and are eventually 'cut down' *when we die*, i.e. our spirit departs from our flesh body and goes back to the heavenly dimension from which it came (Ecc 12:6-7, 2 Cor 5). We also learned that Isaiah 40 used this analogy too, but also pointed out that our 'goodliness' (which means our kindness, #2617) is also as 'fleeting' (temporary) as our flesh body too, in comparison to our Heavenly Father, that is. For our Heavenly Father is *eternal* and His 'mercy' (kindness) is also everlasting, *to those who* fear to disobey Him *and* revere Him with the profound honor and respect He deserves. And we also learned this means that God will treat *each* generation (and individual) 'righteously', <u>according to</u> *their choice* to obey, <u>or</u> disobey Him.

And then we also learned, in detail, what obeying the Lord (YHVH) really means: 'keeping' His Covenant and remembering to do His Commandments. And, what this boils down to is learning His Word and striving to obey Him, *from the heart*. But, we also learned 'keeping' His Word also means guarding His Word *in our heart*, so we're not deceived into disobeying Him, by false teachers who are teaching *perversions* of God's Word ('traditions of man', a.k.a. *lies*) - for that will *only* bring God's punishments upon us, *instead of* His blessings. And then we also learned that 'keeping' God's Word *also* means learning *to share it* with others, especially the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whenever the opportunity arises (Eph 5:15-16; Col 4:5-6). And we also learned the only part of God's Laws we are <u>not</u> to obey anymore are the ordinances, which means the blood sacrifices, and other rituals (or statutes) that pertain to them, because Jesus Christ fulfilled *all* of the ordinances when He shed His precious blood on the cross for us (Heb 10:10). So, this study really helped us to understand *what* we need to do in order to obtain God's everlasting 'mercy' (kindness).

In part 7 we learned that, after many verses of explaining *how* our Heavenly Father (YHVH) rules (with compassion, grace, mercy and patience, <u>towards those who fear Him</u>), David then spoke of how our Heavenly Father's kingdom will not only be *established* (set up) but also *rule over all*. And we learned this was actually prophesying of how Jesus' throne would be set up (established) *in heaven*, so that it could also (later) be established *on earth*, which his why the latter part of verse 19 said that '*His kingdom ruleth over all'*. Indeed, Jesus' kingdom ***will be*** over heaven *and* earth, when He returns to earth at His Second Advent (at the seventh trump, Rev 11:15). And then we learned that, while David began this precious Psalm by calling on his 'own soul' to 'bless' the Lord (YHVH) for all His benefits (and then detailed many of them), he ended with a call for *others* to 'bless' the Lord (YHVH) *with him*. And there were actually three groups he called to 'bless the Lord' *with* him. The first was God's 'angel' servants (in heaven) who are *powerful* warriors (for the Lord, YHVH) - you could even call them the 'top officers' in God's 'angelic army' - who *obey* God's Word <u>and</u> *every 'order'* our Heavenly Father gives them. The

second was those who are 'lower' (in status and power) servants, than what verse 20 spoke of, but are *still* worshipers of the Lord (YHVH) *and* thus, still strive hard to 'do' God's 'pleasure' (i.e. they strive to delight Him via obeying Him). So, this group *could* be speaking of us on earth who serve the Lord (YHVH), but it could very well also be speaking of others in the 'heavenly' (spiritual) dimension where the Lord (YHVH) is. And lastly, David makes what we might call a '*catch all call*' to 'bless the Lord', which means he was calling *all* of God's creation to 'bless the Lord' *with him*. So, no matter our position, high or low, all of God's creation *will* 'bless' the Lord (YHVH) our God *because*, when Jesus Christ returns, *all* people *will* bow a knee to Jesus (when He returns) and confess (admit) He truly is the King of kings (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:10-12; Phil 2:10-11). And that's *why* this precious Psalm's title/subject is 'The Coming Kingdom'. For it truly *looks forward to* the *many* 'blessings' that the 'overcomers' (via Jesus Christ) will be giving our Heavenly Father, when our dear Savior (Jesus Christ) returns to punish the wicked and save the righteous, which are His faithful servants.

Chapter 104

In Psalm one-hundred-four, part 1, we learned that the subject/title of this Psalm is "***The King in His Coming Power and Glory***" and, it therefore, teaches us of our Heavenly Father's power, *and* glory. However, this Psalm not only teaches us of our Heavenly Father's power, and glory, in His '***Coming*** Kingdom', but also that which He has long had, and will continue to have ***forever***. And so, the Psalmist began by teaching us that the Lord (YHVH) is clothed with honor, majesty and even light. And we went to several Scriptures that explained how *magnificently beautiful* our Heavenly Father's outward appearance is. Just as gemstones are *radiantly* beautiful, so too is our Heavenly Father (*and* Jesus Christ). However, our Heavenly Father's outward appearance is truly a reflection of His inner beautify (just as a gemstone radiates light). So, from the 'inside out' the Lord (YHVH) our God (Creator) is truly 'clothed' with great honor (grandeur) and majesty (magnificence, i.e. ornament or splendor), as well as Light (which is symbolic of truth). And then we also learned of how our Heavenly Father stretched (spread) out the 'heavens' like a 'curtain', which *many* other Scriptures also state, as a declaration *of* the Lord's (YHVH's) ownership, power and authority over His Creation. So, we *should* listen to Him and give Him the respect (and fear), love, honor, truth and obedience He truly deserves! But, we also learned *when* our Heavenly Father 'stretched out the heavens like a curtain'; for Genesis tells us it was when He renewed the earth *after* the destruction of the 'first earth age' (i.e., 'the world that then was', as Peter coined it in 2 Pt 3). So, when God was reforming (renewing) the earth (after its destruction in the *first* earth age), He 'stretched out the heavens like a curtain' simply by *dividing* (or separating) *the waters* that had formerly overflowed everything (3 Pt 3:6). So, that space created (by His dividing the waters) was (and still is) the 'heavens' above us, which God also called a firmament in Genesis 1:6-8, which simply means an *expanse*. So truly, this Psalm 104:2 gives us a *better* understanding of Genesis 1:6-8, because it gives us a *vivid* analogy of something we can understand with our flesh eyes (i.e. stretching out a curtain).

In part 2 we learned that the Lord (YHVH) created the boundary between the sky (in the earth's atmosphere) and 'outer space'. But, fascinatingly, we also learned that He flies around in the sky, in a magnificent flying vehicle (which Ezekiel described, in great detail, in chapter 1), which also

has clouds that surround it. Those clouds can be used for warfare (lighting, hail and so forth) or for concealment. But we also learned that our Heavenly Father's holy 'angels' *also* ride in these amazing vehicles, which is why the Psalmist said that the Lord (YHVH) makes His angels 'spirits'. And we know, from Heb 1:7, that this *is* speaking of God's 'angels' (servants in the heavenly/spiritual dimension), not the winds and fire being His servants (although, they are His servants too). And, while our Heavenly Father has created the spirits of the angels (as He has made all things) He also makes His angels 'as the wind' (i.e. spirits) because *they too* fly around in those amazing flying vehicles while on missions for (or with) Him. That's why Jude 14 says that Jesus will return with *ten thousands of His saints* and Jesus said He would send His angels to gather His elect when He returns (Matt 24:31). But, we also covered Scriptures that proves that His 'angels' have also flown (as the wind) in the magnificent flying vehicles (in the past) when on special missions for the Lord (YHVH), when helping people *on earth* (such as David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.). Yet, we also know Jesus' angels guard *us* too, *even today* (Ps 91:11; Mth 18:10).

Yet, we also learned that there's a *spiritual* application of God's 'ministers' being a 'flaming fire'. For Deut 4:24 and Heb 12:29 both tells us that *our God is a consuming fire*. And, in Jer 23:29, the Lord (YHVH) also says: *Is not my word like as a fire*? Indeed, it is – which is why God's word not only *spiritually* burns the hearts of those who hate Him (Rom 12:20; Rev 2:16; 2 Thess 2:8), but it also warms (comforts and energizes) the hearts of those who love Him (Jer 20:9; John 14:14-18; Acts 9:31; 2 Cor 1:3-5; 2 Thess 3:16-17). So, God's angels also share His Word (which is *spiritual* fire) when they go on missions for Him, such as when Gabriel was sent to speak to Daniel (Dan 8:16, 9:21), Zacharias (Lk 1:19) and Mary as well (Lk 1:26). But, we also learned that we (in flesh bodies) should also be 'fanning the flames' of God's *spiritual* fire ***by sharing the truth***, i.e. God's Word. For, as Jesus said: *I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I if it be already kindled*? (Luke 12:49).

In part 3 we learned that our Heavenly Father (YHVH) laid the foundations (the principal components of) of the earth (in vs 5). And, 'the way' our Heavenly Father *originally* created the earth (in the first earth age) was so that it was *stable* and *upright*, i.e. it didn't waver or wobble, let alone shake. And that's because our Heavenly Father created it to be inhabited, as Isaiah 45:18 tells us. But then Satan rebelled against our Heavenly Father and, thus, He **did** 'shake' the earth (which Jeremiah 4:23-27 explained) which caused the earth to be flooded with the 'deep' (waters from within the earth) to the point where they stood above the mountains (as Ps 104:6 explained). And, we also learned that, Gen 1:2 explains what this Psalm 104 is speaking of too, i.e. the destruction of the first earth age when the earth became wasted and an undistinguishable ruin. And Peter also explained this when he wrote that *the world that then was, being* ***overflowed with water, perished*** (2 Pt 3:5). Of course, that doesn't mean the earth ceased to exist but, that *the way* God originally made it *perished* because an earthquake caused waters to flood the earth.

In part 4 we learned that, after the Lord (YHVH) flooded the earth with water during the *first* earth age, He got rid of the waters simply by commanding them to go '*unto the place which thou hast founded for them*' (Ps 104:8), which means (as Gen 1:9-10 tells us), our Heavenly Father commanded most of the waters to be gathered into one place (which He called the sea) while

also commanding dry land to appear. And the dry land (which He called earth) is a boundary the waters cannot pass over again, which is why the *entire* earth has *never again* been flooded (which is why Noah's flood was *localized*, not global). Yet, our Heavenly Father also purposely caused *some* of the waters to go onto the dry land, for the specific purpose of giving water to His creation. So, it's *no accident* there are rivers, springs (and so forth) that provide (non-salty) water for His creation to drink. Truly, our Heavenly Father is able to well provide for His creation, which is why (as Jesus taught us in Mth 6:33) we shouldn't worry about our basic needs (food, water, shelter, clothing). For, so long as we love and obey the Lord (YHVH), He'll always make sure we have what we *need*. And truly, He usually blesses us far beyond what we really need to survive, so long as we *continue* to seek, love and serve Him (wholeheartedly). And then we also learned how the Lord (YHVH) also provides rain fall for many parts of the earth that the rivers and springs *don't* go to, which in turn provides grass for the animals and food (grain and meat) for us people, too. So, in the physical sense, our Heavenly Father is entirely capable of providing for His creation, including us humans. But, thankfully, He also promises to provide us with *spiritual* food, which is *why* He's given us His written Word. Further to that, since Jesus has come to pay for our sins, He's also given us the Holy Spirit, which helps us to *understand* God's Word, so we can *always* get our daily spiritual bread and living waters (John 4, 6, 10, etc.) – instead of being famished as Amos 8:11 warns of - **if** we simply continue to study His Word *sincerely* and *consistently*.

In part 5 we learned more about how our Heavenly Father so wonderfully provides for His creation. Not only does He provide rivers and springs (and underground water we can access through wells) for water, He also provides rain that is vital to keep the pastures filled with grass, so the cattle don't die; yet it's just as paramount for mankind, because many people grow grain crops that depend *totally* on the rain (even today). And, if you've ever grown crops (or even a garden), you know that rain *from above* (in 'due season') is *far better* than any irrigation system can ever be. Yet He also provides wine, oil and bread that comes from grapes, olives and grain that grows, on account of the rain. These are things we need for lighting, hygiene, nutrition and even enjoyment. But the rain also causes the trees to grow strong and tall; and there are many benefits from the wood that comes from trees, even still today. Cedar is still a valued wood because it repels bugs. Yet the trees also provide homes for many birds (and humans, as well); and even the mountains (high hills) and rocks in them are homes for some of God's creation. It's rather amazing how some animals flourish in some of the areas we think are quite inhospitable (mountains and in the freezingly cold climates), which again proves our Heavenly Father well knows how to provide for His creation. Again, that should remind us not to worry about our basic needs. So long as we fear, revere, love and obey our Heavenly Father, He'll *always* provide for our basic needs (food, water, shelter and clothing); and mostly likely, He'll even bless us *far beyond* our basic needs *when* we continue to love and serve Him (that is His covenantal promise to us, after all).

And then we also learned how the Lord (YHVH) appointed the moon and sun in their seasons. That's why the sun always comes up in the morning and goes down in the evening; while the

moon always comes up in the evening and yet goes down in the morning! But we also learned that God gave us the sun, moon and stars for signs, times and seasons. So, we can not only calculate time by them (i.e. have a calendar) but also know when to plant crops and such. Yet, the Zodiac (of the stars) also is a 'sign' to us, for it teaches us God's plan of Salvation. Thus, the stars are a *second witness* to what God's Word also says. And, so long as we don't worship them (or think they have any control over our lives) it's good for us to study the Zodiac (in conjunction with God's Word) to learn what has been, and what shall be; for the stars (along with the sun and moon) *are* also given to us for 'signs' of what lies ahead.

In part 6 we learned our Heavenly Father has created the night (and the darkness) simply by placing the moon, and stars, in *specific orbits* (around the sun), which is what ensures that there's *always* day and always *night*. And He's also created specific animals to flourish at the night time, such as the lions, who usually hunt at night, because it's easier to be successful under the cover of darkness. But, we also learned our Heavenly Father also created animals to be active during the day, such as mankind. And, we also learned that, *spiritually* speaking, we ***should*** *be* 'children of the day', as Paul wrote in 1 Thess 5:1-9. So, we must continue to study God's Word (which is the Light) so we can discern the darkness (lies) from the Light (truth), *especially* during the 'great day of darkness', which is when Satan is kicked out of heaven, to earth (a.k.a. the *great* tribulation, Mth 24:21). So, while some of God's natural creatures were designed to live in the physical darkness, it's important that we don't dwell in *spiritual* darkness (of lies and confusion), so we're not fooled into becoming the 'children of the night' when Satan comes to try and get everyone on earth to worship him. And lastly, we saw the Psalmist praise the Lord (YHVH) for His manifold (many) works *and* the wisdom from which He used to make them all; truly, He has made the earth full of riches that provide for all His creation. So, if we simply look around. and observe God's magnificent creation – the food chain, the ecosystems, even the human body (etc.) – one whose heart is not hardened (by lust, pride, greet, etc.) *will* come to acknowledge that we **do** truly have a Creator, because all of creation (as well as the heavens, Ps 19) truly 'testifies' of Him.

In part 7 we learned that all the living things in the sea (including the 'creeping things') are truly *innumerable*, which shows the great *magnitude* of our Heavenly Father's creation. For, even today (with all our technology), scientists are *still* discovering new creatures that live deep within the seas. And then, we also learned that, all of God's creation (from the smallest creeping things, to the largest animals) all depend on our Heavenly Father for their 'meat in due season', which He is well able to provide for them. And, of course, our Heavenly Father will also provide our 'meat in due season' (physically and spiritually) *if* we love, and serve Him, *faithfully* (that's a part of His Covenant, after all). And then, we also learned that, all of God's creation have a time to be born (created) and a time to die. But thankfully, when we humans die, our spirit goes back to our Heavenly Father (in the spiritual/heavenly dimension) even though our flesh goes back to the dust it came from (decomposes back into dust/soil). And then, we also learned of more verses that are *very* similar to Psalms that David wrote (Ps 104:16 is a lot like Ps 145:16; and Ps 104:27 and Ps 145:16 are nearly identical to each other) which *strongly* suggest that David was *most likely* the one who wrote this Psalm 104.

In part 8 we learned how temporary flesh is (including this fleshly, second earth age) compared to our Heavenly Father's glory (honor), which is truly as eternal as He is. And then we learned our Heavenly Father *will* rejoice in His 'work' (the new heaven and new earth), as will all those who choose to turn back to our Heavenly Father, in sincere repentance, and accept Jesus Christ. And then we learned of an example that shows us the *great* power of our Heavenly Father. He can make the earth to tremble, simply with a glance; and cause the mountains to smoke, simply with a touch. Likewise, with just a few words, Jesus Christ not only healed people (Lk 7:6-10; Mth 9:1-8) but also raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41-44). In fact, so powerful is the Word of God that, He not only destroyed the *first* earth age ***with His Word*** (Gen 1:2) but also renewed it ***with His Word*** (Gen 1:3 onward). Thus, when the Lord creates the 'new' heaven and earth, for eternity (Rev 21:1), it'll *also* be with the power ***of His Word***. And then we saw the Psalmist promise to sing praise unto, and celebrate, the Lord (YHVH) (for His many wonderful works) as long as he was alive. But, he also spoke of how sweet it was to meditate (think about) the Lord when he wrote this Psalm. Indeed, God's Word is 'sweet' to our soul (and spirit) because it gives us *the truth* (spiritual food) we need to live forever. And then we saw the Psalmist call for the 'ultimate' judgment (of the wicked and sinners), that *only* comes at the *very end of* the Millennium (Rev 20:10-15); when all people (who didn't make the first resurrection, Rev 20:4-6) are judged at the 'Great White Throne Judgment'. So, in contrast to those who praise the Lord (YHVH), and meditate of Him (i.e. on His Word), the wicked will be, eventually, consumed out of the earth, which means they will, indeed, be 'no more'. And this thought – of the wicked being *fully* destroyed (as the fat of lambs dissipates into nothing when it touches the fire) *forever* – is *what caused* the Psalmist to end the Psalm with: *Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.* And lastly, we learned that the words 'Praise ye the Lord' are the Hebrew word (which many Christians actually know) "Hallelujah". And this is actually the *first* 'Hallelujah' in the Old Testament. And it's likely *because of* the fact that it's connected to the overthrow (and total destruction of) the wicked. In fact, this is the same with the first 'Hallelujah' in the New Testament (Rev 19:1-2) as well! Thus, it is the punishment of the wicked (blotting them out of existence, forever) *that saves the righteous*! For, after the wicked are gone (forever - never to exist, or even be remembered, again), we can finally live in peace and safety *forever*. And that is truly, *why* we will be singing 'Praise the Lord' as the eternity begins!

Chapter 105

In chapter one-hundred-five, part 1, we learned this Psalm was written (along with Psalms 24, 25, 68 and 87) to record parts of the 'great event' when David was king, i.e. when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Zion (in Jerusalem). And 'the part' of this 'great event' this Psalm (105) records is the *subsequent celebrations of the events* - which clearly involved a *great* history lesson for Israel, for that's what most of this Psalm is. And let's also remember that, this Psalm 105, has the subject/title of "***The Coming Kingdom, As Based on the Past***". So again, we're given a history lesson, because history repeats itself (Ecc 1:9) and thus, history helps to explain what is coming, i.e. the eternal Kingdom of God, which is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. So, the Psalmist began this Psalm by calling 'the people' (at the gathering) to: (1) thank the Lord, (2) call upon His name and to (3) make known His deeds among the people. And these three things,

truly, are what we should *still* do today. For thanking the Lord (YHVH) is a vital part of worshiping Him; plus, it also is *good for us*, because it helps us to remember all that He has done, which proves how faithful He is to keep His Word to us. And the Psalmist also called the people to 'call upon the name of the Lord', which means to 'call upon' our Heavenly Father (YHVH) in prayer *and* sincerely seek Him through studying His Word (and sincerely trying to obey it) – instead of traditions of man, or other lies that give us *false* hope. And then, the Psalmist also called the people (which is, again, *still* a call that applies to us today) to *make known his deeds among the people*, which means *helping others to know Him* (i.e. His Word). And that also means *helping them see* that our Heavenly Father is the one *and only* true (Almighty and Supreme) God, *because* He's our Creator. And it's also helping others to understand His holiness (righteousness) because He *is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17). So, you could even say that 'making known His deeds among the people' is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And then, the Psalmist also called the people (us today too) to *celebrate* in the Lord's (YHVH's) Holy (holy and righteous) name (honor, authority and character). So, instead of glorying in our own 'self', or in others, or even in things like 'science' or 'technology', we *should* glory in (celebrate) *our Creator* because ***He made all things***; and He's given us the *perfect* system of laws, which *benefit us* more than *any other* law system, if we'd only obey it (Deut 10:13). And then, the Psalmist also called the people (including us today, too) to '*let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD'*. And those who sincerely 'seek' the Lord (YHVH) (which is done by studying His Word, sincerely and consistently, Isa 34:16; 2 Tim 2:15; Mth 6:33; Heb 4:12, etc.) will rejoice (be blithe and gleesome) *because* they will sincerely repent for their sins and strive hard to obey God's Word (and His Laws). And doing so is the *only thing* that brings *true* peace of mind *because*, sincerely seeking the Lord (YHVH) (and obeying Him, from the heart, the best you sincerely can) is what brings the Holy Spirit into our inner man, and *comforts* our heart (and mind) *no matter what happens in life* (John 14:15-18; Phil 4:7).

In part 2 we learned how to seek the Lord (YHVH), *and* His strength, evermore (continually); for that's what the Psalmist called the people to do, i.e. those who attended the 'great event' of the Ark of the Covenant being brought to Zion (in Jerusalem) for the first time (which is symbolic of the Second Advent of Jesus Christ). And, of course, this 'call' *still* applies to us today. Therefore, if we really are serious about seeking the Lord (YHVH) we **will** study His Word sincerely, diligently *and* consistently. As Isa 34:17 says: ***Seek ye*** *out of the book of the LORD,* ***and read***. And 2 Tim 2:15-16 says: ***Study*** *to shew thyself* ***approved unto God****, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,* ***rightly dividing the word of truth***. And, as Jesus taught us (in John 6:63), God's Word (not traditions of man, or fake outward worship) is the *only thing* that profits us *because* God's Word **is** His Holy Spirit ***in written form*** - and thus, His Word is what *gives life to our spirit* (heart and mind). In other words, **the Word of God *relays* God's heart and mind** (the truth, John 17:17)**, *to our* heart and mind**. And that's what we *really* need, i.e. that's our *spiritual* 'food' we need each day in order to be strong and healthy - both spiritually and physically. For, God's Word not only tells us how to take care of our flesh body, and get along with others; it also teaches us *how to control* our feelings, thoughts and desires *so they don't*

control us, which is what causes us to sin. As Paul so well explained: *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For* ***to be carnally minded is death****; but* ***to be spiritually minded is life and peace*** (Rom 8:5-6). So, the bottom line is that, our Heavenly Father *doesn't like a fake*. He wants our *sincere* love and, **God's 'love language' is obedience**.

And then we also learned that, to seek God's 'strength' means ***to seek His help***, for He truly is 'mighty to save' (Isa 63:1). And, for His salvation, He truly does deserve our praise! And then, we also learned that we should *seek the 'face of the Lord' evermore*, which simply means to seek HIM *continually* (constantly), i.e. seek to get to know Him (every day) and have a *true*, *intimate* and *good* relationship with our Heavenly Father. And then we also learned that, part of this precious Psalm 105 (verses 1-15) is actually a part of the first Psalm David wrote, and then delivered to the chief musicians to sing, at that 'great event', when the Ark of the Covenant was first brought to Zion, in Jerusalem. So, we know **for a fact**, that *part of* this Psalm 105 **was** (indeed) **written** by David (just as Ps 96 was), even though it's not accredited to him, in a subscription (as some other Psalms were). And, even though we only covered one verse (4) in the last study, we learned *really well* how incredibly important it is to 'seek the Lord' (YHVH) *and* His 'strength' (His help) evermore (continually); for, that's not only what gives us eternal life (John 17:3) but it's also a vital part of worshiping Him!

In part 3 we learned how important it is to *remember* the many 'marvelous works' (great and wonderful works), wonders (miracles), and judgments of the Lord (YHVH). For, if we don't remember them (continue to study His Word *and* speak of it, when the opportunities arise) then it's *far to easy* to forget them. And remembering all of these things is truly a part of worshiping the Lord (YHVH); for it keeps us grateful for all He's done for us *and* strengthens our faith in His ability to always help us, no matter what comes along. And then, we saw the Psalmist remind Israel that they were the 'seed' (descendants) of Abraham and Jacob, who were given many great (and *unconditional*) promises by God Himself. Thus, we learned Israel was chosen (selected) by God to be His 'servant nation' that would take His Word (the truth, even the Gospel of Jesus Christ) forth to a world full of people ('heathen') who don't know Him. And that's why they were to be a blessing to all other nations, i.e. because they were to share the truth (God's Word, His Laws and righteous ways) with all of God's children. And they were also the People God chose to send the Savior of the world through (Jesus Christ) which is the *ultimate* way Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's 'seed' was to be a blessing to all nations (Gen 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14).

And the Psalmist also reminded Israel that their God (YHVH) **is** the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob (a.k.a. Israel) who is the ultimate Judge of all the earth. That's why His judgments are in *all* the earth. For, even though He's in the heavenly/spiritual dimension (we cannot see) He *still* watches (closely) what's going on in the earth, in order to help His children return to Him – in love, trust and sincere obedience – because He wants *all* of His children to be saved, spiritually (2 Pt 3:9), so they don't have to be blotted out of existence (Rev 20:10-15). And lastly, we also learned that our Heavenly Father *always* remembers His Covenants. Not only His *un-conditional* Covenant to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel (that their seed would greatly multiply, inherit the

Promise Land and be a blessing to all nations) but also His Covenant with Israel, which was a national (and *conditional*) covenant. Truly, the Lord has, not only, been faithful to fulfil His Word to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel, *but also* to bless Israel (as a nation) when they disobeyed Him and pour out the cursings when they disobeyed Him.

In part 4 we learned how the Lord (YHVH) made a covenant with Abraham, and gave him *unconditional* promises (Gen 12:1-7, Gen 13:14-17, Gen 15:4-5, 18-21, Gen 17:1-11,15-21, Gen 22:15-18), that were both ***physical*** (that his seed would greatly multiply, inherit the Promise Land, and kings would come from him) and ***spiritual***. For our Heavenly Father also promised: *I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:* ***and*** *in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed* (Gen 12:3). And truly, it is through Jesus Christ that all people (families) of the earth **are** blessed, i.e. through the precious blood He shed to atone for our sins (Rom 5:11; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14, Heb 9:12-15, etc.). For that (faith in Jesus) is the *only* way we (both Israel *and* the gentiles) can obtain forgiveness for our sins *and* is also what gives us the Holy Spirit, which gives us *eternal* life (Gal 3:14), *and* is what will allow us to rule with Jesus Christ, when He returns to rule the world forevermore (Rom 4:13, 8:17, etc.). And, we then learned how the Lord (YHVH) confirmed this covenant (the physical and spiritual promises) with Issac and then Jacob, whose name was change to Israel.

And we also learned that both the name of Jacob, and Israel, are used in the Scriptures (even though they refer to the same man) because they mean different things. Jacob is used to refer to Jacob's *natural* seed, but also refers to *weakness of man*, especially that of Jacob's *natural* seed. But Israel is used to refer to '*spiritual* Israel' and their 'strength' *in faith* in God and *submitting* themselves *to God's will*. Further, Jacob's '*spiritual* seed' are those that would be 'born' by the Holy Spirit *when* they believe in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 John 5:17-20, James 1:18, Rom 8:8-17, 24-29). So, while the Law (God's Laws) *did* come through Jacob's physical descendants (i.e. they were given to the children of Jacob on Mount Sinai, Ex 19-20), the 'everlasting covenant' (which promises the Holy Spirit, everlasting life and worldwide dominion) was given to Israel's *spiritual* descendants via their faith in Jesus Christ! And then we saw the Psalmist point out a *particular part* of the promises God gave to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel, i.e. giving them the 'land of Canaan', which we call the 'Promise Land'. And, as we know from history the Bible records for us, the Lord (YHVH) was faithful to fulfil this promise. Israel indeed inherited the Promise Land. However, not all did. As Paul points out, in Heb 3-4, those Israelites who disobeyed, fought with, and rebelled against Moses and Aaron (God's representatives on earth) *died* before inheriting the Promise Land. In fact, an entire generation (those twenty years on upward) were condemned to die in the wilderness, while *their children* would be the ones who inherit the Promise Land (Num 14). So, the lesson to us is that 'race *cannot* save you' (which Jesus also taught in John 8). That's why *faith in Jesus Christ* is the 'key' to inheriting the world (as was promised to Jacob in Gen 28:14, and Paul points out in Gal 2:27-29). That's why *only* those who *remain faithful* to Jesus Christ will be given *eternal* life (at the first resurrection), and allowed to rule with Him when He returns (Rev 20:4-6; Rom 8:14-18, etc.). Jesus warned about this also when He said that: *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord,*

Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that ***doeth*** *the will of my Father which is in heaven* (Matt 7:21)!

And then we learned of the great the faith (in God and His Word) that Abraham, Issac and Jacob had. For Abraham believed in God's promises even before he had any children! Yet, even after the Lord (YHVH) told Abraham that Ishmael wouldn't be the inheritor of the promises, Abraham still believed the Lord, *even though* God had promised him a son, *through Sarah*, who was *very* old at the time (as was he) (Gen 17:15-21). Moreover, even after Sarah had born Isaac to Abraham, he *still* believed in the promises God gave him, i.e. that they would come through Isaac – despite God asking him to sacrifice Isaac! So strongly did Abraham believe in the promises God gave him (that they would come to pass via Issac, as God had promised) that he was willing to sacrifice Isaac (i.e. put Isaac to death, literally) because *he knew* the Lord (YHVH) would 'raise him up', *even from the dead* (Heb 11:19) **because** He had promised '*in Isaac shall thy seed be called*' (Gen 17:21, 21:12). And truly, this also means that Abraham believed in the promise of the Messiah (which was given in Gen 3:15), whose 'heel' *was* 'bruised' through the crucifixion. And, what this means for us today is (as Paul taught us in Rom 4:19-25) that: we are we accounted (reconned) as righteous *when we believe in Jesus Christ*, i.e. that He was delivered for our sins (His blood atones for our sins, Rom 5:11) and was raised for our justification (Rom 3:24), so we can be considered righteous by God *and* given the promise of the Holy Spirit, eternal life and being allowed to rule with Jesus Christ when He returns (Rom 5:1, 9; 2 Cor 6:11; Gal 2:16, 3:34; Titus 3:7).

Lastly, we also learned that, even though Abraham lived in the 'land of Promise' (the land of Canaan) – and *never* saw his descendants (through Isaac and Jacob) grow into a 'multitude of people' (as the sand of the sea, dust of the earth and stars of the sky) or inherit the 'land of Canaan' - he *still believe in* God's promises, even though they were 'but a few men in number' at that time (Ps 105:11). Therefore, the Psalmist gave this 'history lesson', to those who attended the 'great event' (when the Ark of the Covenant was first brought to Jerusalem), *to remind them* **how important** it is ***to believe in our Heavenly Father's Word***. For, His past record (of what He's already done to fulfill promises) is proof that the rest of what He has said, will come to pass! And that's also why he called the people to 'remember' God's marvelous works, wonders and judgments clear back in verse 5. So, what our Heavenly Father has promised, He is fully able to bring to pass. And this is critical for us to remember too, because the ***only*** way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ (John 14:6, 17:3, etc.), *for there is* ***none other name*** *under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved* (Acts 4:12).

In part 5 we learned how well the Lord (YHVH) protected Abraham, Issac and Jacob (and their households) when they were living in the land of Canaan (and other lands full of heathen), which was dangerous to do with small groups of people (as they were at that time). And, truly, He *did* reprove kings (such as Abimelech) for their sake, and warned them not to touch His anointed (i.e. servants, who were His prophets). And then we learned how well He took care of Israel when a terrible famine (that lasted seven years) came upon Egypt and the surrounding nations. For the Lord (YHVH) Himself *allowed* Joseph to be sold into slavery (by his own brothers) *specifically*

so He could use Joseph to gather in enough grain that would save Israel, his descendants (and all others in their households), as well as other people in surrounding nations, from that terrible famine. And we also learned that it was God who gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams (correctly), which is what moved Pharoah to make Joseph the top ruler in Egypt (second only to Pharoah himself). And Pharoah was not disappointed with Joseph; for, by the end of the famine, Joseph had made Pharoah a very wealthy man. Not only had he gotten *a lot* of money from surrounding nations, who came to buy grain, but all of Egypt (except their priests) had to give all their money, livestock and even sold themselves into slavery (to Pharoah) just to survive the famine. Yet, we learned that the Lord (YHVH) still protected Israel throughout this time; they didn't perish from the famine nor have to sell themselves into slavery. And that was because Jospeh was given such favor by Pharoah, that Joseph's family were allowed to live (for free) in the best grazing land in Egypt (Goshen) where they flourished for *hundreds* of years afterwards.

However, we also learned that Joseph's journey to becoming a 'great man' (a good servant for the Lord, YHVH, and top ruler in Egypt) was not an easy road. And this was God's will, because Joseph needed to be humbled, and taught to trust in the Lord more (in order to be a good ruler, and servant of God). So, it was through the hard times Joseph went through (being a slave, outwardly, to the Egyptians) that cleansed his inner man and helped him grow spiritually mature into a good servant – not only for the Lord, but Pharaoh too! And this is a good lesson for us today too; for God still uses hard times to mold <u>us</u> into faithful servants for Him. So, this part of the 'history lesson' (in this Psalm) really 'drives the point home' that our Heavenly Father is *always faithful to His Word*. And, therefore, *we can count on what He says* coming to pass, <u>always</u>. Again, that's what studying history teaches us.

In part 6 we learned how, after the Lord (YHVH) sent Joseph into Egypt (before his family), and raised him to power, the Lord (YHVH) brought the rest of Joseph's family to Egypt (to live) so they wouldn't perish from the great famine (which was still to last five more years). And then we learned how God blessed them there, and caused their women to be able to have *a lot* of children (rather quickly) so that they multiplied (greatly) and became *so numerous* that the Egyptians eventually began to envy, *and fear*, them. And *that's* what caused the Egyptians to hate the Israelites, insomuch they began to enslave them, in hopes it would it would weaken them. And, when that didn't work, Pharoah (who didn't remember all Joseph had done for Egypt, and a previous Pharoah) tried to get the midwives to murder the Israelite's baby boys, when they were delivering them. And when that didn't work, Pharoah called *all* Egyptians to murder the baby boys, by throwing them into the river to drown! Yet, even that didn't slow the Israelite's down from multiplying in numbers. And, it was at that time that Moses was born. And because of the great faith of Moses' parents (Heb 11:23), Moses was saved. And that's who the Lord (YHVH) chose to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage, with his brother, Aaron, helping as the spokesman. And then we learned how the Lord (YHVH) would show (through those two men) the Egyptians (and Israel) many *mighty* signs and wonders, such as the *great* 'thick' darkness that came upon the Egyptians for *three whole days*.

In part 7 we learned about more plagues, that the Lord (YHVH) brought upon Egypt, to get them to free Israel from bondage. Yet, these plagues also caused the Egyptians to *greatly* fear the *true* God (YHVH) *and* most of the plagues caused them to loathe the very *false* gods they worshipped, such as the Nile River, fogs, flies and so forth. Yet we also learned that these ten plagues are *types for us today*. For, during the 'great tribulation' (when Satan, and his fallen angels, are kicked out of heaven to earth; for the purpose of deceiving the world into worshiping Satan and his wicked 'beast' governing system) God's two witnesses (Rev 11, Zech 4) will be given power to turn the waters into blood again, as well as to *smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will* (Rev 11:6). Further, there's also a coming 'locust army' (spoken of in Rev 9) too; but it isn't a small insect, as it was in the days of Egypt. Satan's fallen angels are called locusts (in Rev 9) because - as the locust insects *utterly consumed* every 'green thing' when they came upon Egypt - so likewise will the fallen angels *utterly consume truth out of the **minds** of God's children,* who don't have the 'seal of God' in their foreheads (Rev 7). Further, in a similar manner to many of the plagues of Egypt, the Lord (YHVH) will also pour out His 'vials' (Rev 16) upon the unbelievers of the world (i.e. those who worshiped Satan, and his 'beast' governing system, Rev 14:9-11, 16:2), shortly *before* the *true* Messiah (Jesus Christ) returns (at His Second Advent).

So, this 'history lesson' - of the ten plagues of Egypt - is *still **very*** important for us, living today, to learn *and to remember*. For they are *types for us* to learn from (1 Cor 10:11), so we know how to prepare (mentally, spiritually and physically) for what's coming - but also - so we are *not deceived* by the coming 'flood of lies' (Rev 12:15) and 'great wonders' (Rev 13:13) that Satan (and his fallen angles) will perform (and say) when they are on earth. For, the only way we can make it through the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21) is if we have the 'blood of the Lamb' (Jesus Christ) upon our 'doorposts' (of our heart and mind, i.e. God's Word and Holy Spirit within us). For, just as the Israelites (who put the blood of the lamb on their doorposts) were not harmed by the destroying angel (when he smote the firstborn of the Egyptian males) neither will we (who obediently keep the Passover [Jesus Christ] *by keeping* God's Word, and Holy Spirit, within us) be harmed by Satan's lies and deceptions, when he (and his fallen angels) are literally cast out of heaven, to earth (Rev 12:7-17).

In part eight we learned how the Lord (YHVH) protected (and led) Israel when they came out of Egypt by a pillar of cloud (by day) and a pillar of fire (by night). This not only protected Israel from the hot sun in the wilderness, but it also gave them light, at night, so they could even travel at night, if need be. And, this is a *beautiful* type for us today too. For though we may not be living in a physical wilderness, this flesh life can be quite a spiritual wilderness (inhospitable to those who love, and serve, the Lord, YHVH and Jesus Christ). Yet, our Heavenly Father has *promised* to ***always*** give us a light (the truth) to spiritually guide us in our life, so we're not overcome by the spiritual darkness (lies) that most of the whole is overwhelmed with. And then we learned how the Lord (YHVH) also took care of Israel in the wilderness, by giving them food and water, (things which they needed but were hard to come by in the desert wilderness). And this too is a beautiful type for how the Lord (YHVH) will also take care of those who love, fear and obey Him – both now and during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:1, Rev 12-13, etc.). As Paul

wrote: *Let your conversation be <u>without</u> covetousness; and <u>be</u> <u>content</u> with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee* (Heb 13:5). And then we learned *why* the Lord (YHVH) so graciously provided for the children of Israel (verses 39-41). It was because of the *unconditional* promises He made to Abraham, which He also gave to Isaac and Jacob/Israel. Yet, so long as we love, and obey, Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27-29) our Heavenly Father will *always* remember to help us out of our troubles, tribulations and temptations too (1 Cor 10:13). So long as we don't forsake the Lord (YHVH) – nor Jesus Christ (Mth 10:32-34) – then our Heavenly Father will *never* forsake us (Heb 13:5)!

And we also learned that how the Lord (YHVH) brought Israel out of Egypt, with joy and gladness. And, after Israel was saved (by the Lord, YHVH) from the Egyptian army, the people truly did have *a lot of* 'joy' (cheerfulness #8342) and 'gladness' (shouts of joy #7440) as the song they sung, in Exodus 15, reveals. And then we learned how, true to His promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel (Gen 12:1-7, 13:14-17, 15:4-5, 18-21, 17:1-11,15-21, 22:15-18, 26:2-5, Gen 28:10-15, Gen 35:9-13) the Lord (YHVH) did indeed give the children of Israel the lands of the heathen (Gen 15:18-21) who were living in 'Promise Land'. And Israel did not have to build any houses (or other buildings), nor plant vineyards, or crops. For the heathen had already planted (and built) them. And that's *why* they inherited the 'labor' of the people (i.e. the heathen). And a ***key point*** to this *great* history lesson (in Psalm 105) was in the fact that, aside from performing His unconditional promises to Abrham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel, the Lord (YHVH) <u>also</u> gave Israel the Promise Land so *that they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws*. In other words, He chose Israel (due to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob's love and obedience to Him) to be His ***servant nation*** that would carefully guard His Words in their hearts and thus, *diligently obey Him* (Ex 19:5-6). Why? So His perfect law system (the light, Ps 119:105, 30; Prov 6:23) would ***be made known to the world***, who was *in dire need of it*! Moreover, God also promised Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel that *in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed* (Gen 12:3, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14). And, before the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came, the way the world would be blessed was b*y Israel's sharing God's perfect law system with the world*. But, <u>after</u> Jesus Christ came, the world would be blessed *by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ **and** the Holy Spirit of God* that we're given for believing in (and obeying) Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27-29, etc.). And, in the future, the world will *again* be blessed by Israel's 'Seed' when Jesus Christ (the Seed of Abrham, Issac and Jacob) returns to the earth and *rules the world <u>with</u> God's righteous Laws* (John 12:48). And, most importantly of all, learning (and keeping) God's Law (from the heart) is what gives us *eternal* life!

Lastly, we saw the Psalmist end this beautiful 'history lesson' with the words '*Praise ye the LORD*', just as Psalms 104 did. And these words are a Hebrew word that most Christians are actually familiar with: "Hallelujah"! And, while Psalm 104 ended with the thought of the wicked being consumed out of the earth (which *will* happen, at the end of the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15), this Psalm ends with the thought of 'keeping God's Laws', which is what *will* happen (perfectly) during the eternity! Therefore, after the wicked are gone (<u>forever</u> - never to exist, or even be remembered, again), we can finally live in peace, and safety, *forever*. Thus, this Psalm 105 – which was written to celebrate the Ark of the Covenant coming to Zion, in Jerusalem, for

the first time – is also prophetical of Jesus Christ's Second Advent. Therefore, it will be no surprise if history is again taught (as a way to praise the Lord) during the Millenium as well (Ezek 44:23-24)!

Chapter 106

In chapter one-hundred-six, part 1, we learned that this is the *very last* chapter in the 'Numbers Book' of the Psalms (chapters 90-106), and it is considered the 'Epilogue' because it's the concluding chapter that rounds out the overall subject of the 'Numbers Book', which is: the coming 'rest' (peace) for the world when the true 'King of kings' (Christ Jesus) finally returns to rule, and judge, the word *in righteousness*. And we also learned that the subject/title of this great Psalm 106 is "***Rest. How Lost, and Valued***". So, it'll teach us (mostly through a history lesson) of what the *true* 'rest' is, how it can be *lost*, as well as how it can be *found* and how *valuable* it truly is. That's why this Psalm began by calling us to 'praise the Lord' and give thanks to Him; because He truly is good and his mercy endures forever (continues throughout all generations). But we also learned there is a *condition* to God's mercy, and it involves being willing to face ourselves, repent for our sins and try hard to change them, *from the heart*. And, so long as we do this, our Heavenly Father is *always* faithful to forgive us, regardless of how short we fall at times.

And then we also saw the Psalmist use a common figure of speech (*Erotesis*, i.e. asking questions to make a point) to express *great* wonder, and admiration, for the *unfathomable* magnitude of our Heavenly Father's holy characteristics *and* mighty works. And then we saw the Psalmist explain how we can be truly 'blessed' (happy) in life. For, when we learn to use good judgment in our own personal lives, we'll study His word so to learn how to treat others according to the Ten Commandments - which were summed up, by Jesus, as loving (and obeying) God with *all* our heart, mind, soul and strength *and* loving others as ourselves (Matt 22:36-40 and Mark 12:28-31). This truly is the 'royal law' according to the Scriptures (Lev 19:18; James 2:8; Matt 7:12). In other words, that sums up what God's Laws (and the prophets) teach us. And then we learned that those who are blessed (happy) are also those who earnestly *strive* to do what's right, from the heart (obey God's Word) for *all the rest of their life*. Peter really sums this up well, when he says that we should *no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God* (1 Peter 4:2).

In part 2 we saw the Psalmist begin to turn his prayer to *the people of his nation*, Israel, by asking the Lord to remember them (Israel) in a 'favorable light' and grant them salvation (deliverance, aid and/or prosperity) – which shows he has *a lot* of compassion for his nation. And we also learned that it's good for us to do so too, especially to pray for the *spiritual* salvation of those in our nation, as many others have done (Dan 9, Ezra 9 and Neh 1). And it's also good for us to ask the Lord (YHVH) to remember His promises, too (as Isa 43:27 says) because that shows the Lord (YHVH) that we *know* His promises, which shows we've been *seeking* Him. Yet it also shows we *believe* in His promises, which shows we *believe* in Him. And further, it also shows Him we feel like we are *doing* what is required to get His promises. And, when we do this, our Heavenly Father will either fulfil His promise(s), or help us to see what we need to do (such

as repent or anything else) in order to obtain them. And then we saw the Psalmist declare his hopes for Israel. And what he hoped for is not much (if any) different than what most people hope for. For, he hoped to see his nation (Israel) blessed by God, which would brighten up his spirits, as well as the others living in Israel. Of course, that implies Israel was not getting many (if any) blessings, at the time he wrote this Psalm. And lastly, the Psalmist hoped to *celebrate* with Israel, who was God's 'inheritance' (His *heirloom* or servant nation) when they obeyed Him. In other words, the Psalmist hoped to see Israel get back to being *obedient* to the Lord (YHVH), which is what brings blessings from the Lord (YHVH).

And then we also learned of the importance of learning history, for it teaches us the importance of believing in, and obeying, our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ), which can only be done when we *know His Word* (Law and promises). And this is *critical* for us today because, we who are living today, truly are living in the 'last days'. And that means the 'great tribulation' is soon to come upon us. And this tribulation will be *worse* than *ever before* (Mth 24:21) *because of* the *great* deception that Satan (and his fallen angels) will pour out upon the world (a flood of lies, Rev 12:15) when they are cast from heaven, to earth, to try and fool the world into worshiping Satan *and* his wicked 'beast' governing system (Rev 12-13; 2 Thess 2, etc.). So, it is *especially* critical for us to *study history* (as this Psalm will explain) so we don't lose the 'rest' (peace) that comes from being a *faithful* servant to the Lord (Heb 3-4) – not now, nor when the *true* Jesus Christ returns (as will happen to some, Mth 7:21-23).

In part 3 we learned that the Israelites, who were living at the time this Psalm was written, had sinned *after the similitude* that their 'fathers' (ancestors) did, i.e. they had failed to obey the Lord's (YHVH's) righteous Laws and became utterly corrupted instead. And that's why Israel was not being blessed, at the time this Psalm was written. And the Psalmist pointed out that they became corrupted (departed from God's righteous Laws) *because* they (like their forefathers) *didn't remember* the many great (and mighty) wonders the Lord (YHVH) did for Israel, to free them from Egyptian bondage - nor any of the other *many* mighty, and wonderous, works He did for Israel *after* that. This is *why* we too should remember the history the Bible teaches us; for if we don't remember them, we too will lack the faith needed to obey the Lord – which always results in losing the 'rest' (peace) that God promises *those who obey Him*. And then we learned how, despite Israel's faithlessness (sins, iniquity and wickedness) the Lord (YHVH) saved them form the Egyptian army, when they were about to attack Israel. And this was another mighty work of the Lord (YHVH) we should remember. For, it not only shows His power, but also His compassion on His children, as well as His faithfulness to perform His *unconditional* promises He gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel.

In part 4 we learned that, even though Israel had literally witnessed *many* mighty works (i.e. the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the Egyptian army) the children of Israel promptly (*very* quickly) forgot (acted as though they were oblivious to) them! For, it only took *three days,* of walking in the wilderness, for Israel to totally forget what was surely the *most amazing* miracles they had *ever* seen in their life! And their lack of memory caused them to complain *obstinately* (stubbornly and tenaciously) to Moses. And we also learned

that this (being double minded) is what happens when we *don't control* our carnal mind (our heart, the part of us that wants to sin, i.e. our desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and *keep* God's Word (and) will as our *top priority* in life. And we also learned that the children of Israel didn't 'wait for' God's 'counsel' because they didn't *adhere to* (#2442) God's command to gather the manna in the mornings and only get what they needed, for it wouldn't last more than that day. And not all of them were obedient to gather twice what they needed before the Sabbath day either, which was another one of God's instructions. Truly, our Heavenly Father gives us His Word (Laws, instructions) *for our good*. But, if we lack faith in Him (and don't remember His mighty works and His Commandments, i.e. Word) then we too will forget to diligently obey Him, from the heart. And that again is why the Israelites were a good example for us (1 Cor 10:11) of what we should <u>not</u> be like!

And then we also learned how the children of Israel *lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert*. This referred to when Israel later lusted to have meat to eat (such as the quail He'd provided for them shortly after they came out of Egypt). And what's amazing (in a bad way) about that was: even though they forgot God's mighty works (freeing them from Egyptian bondage via the plages and saving them from the Egyptian's by parting the Red Sea), they *could* remember all the 'good foods' they had while in *bondage* to the Egyptians! And they 'tempted' (tested) God (in their heart) when they asked for meat (flesh) to eat (because they lusted) because, instead of asking humbling (and with respect) they were disrespectful, and unbelieving, that the Lord (YHVH) *could* provide for them again. And, even though the Lord (YHVH) did give them their request, He also punished them in doing so. For, as they were eating the quail, the Lord (YHVH) smote those who ate it with a great plague. Thus, God caused those who lusted (and tempted Him) to loathe the very thing they lusted for! And, these lessons from history are ones we should keep tightly in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations), and mind (thoughts), so we *don't* follow after the examples of the rebellious, ungrateful and unfaithful Israelites who – despite literally seeing many miraculous events in the wilderness – *didn't remember them* and thus, *didn't believe in* (nor obey) the Lord (YHVH).

In part 5 we learned how Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (along with 250 'prices' of Israel) 'rose up' *against* Moses, and Aaron, and accused *them* of 'lifting themselves up' above *all the others*. In other words, they were accusing Moses and Aaron of *making themselves* rulers over the nation of Israel. And really, that's nearly calling them 'dictators'! What this boils down to is that these men were making a 'power grab' - or, as we'd say today, a 'coup' - to overthrow the *legitimate* government that <u>the Lord</u> (YHVH) <u>had established</u>. And we also learned what caused them to do this: ***envy***, which means a *painful, or resentful, awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, <u>joined with a desire to possess the same advantage</u>*. But, we also learned Moses and Aaron were <u>both</u> ***chosen by the Lord***, YHVH (Ex 3:10, 4:16, 7:1, etc.). And that's *why* our Heavenly Father put these men (the leaders of the rebellion) to death in quite a spectacular way: by causing the earth to *literally* open up (a hole opened up), 'swallow them' (they *fell into* the hole) and cover them up (the hole closed up, as miraculously as it opened)! And then the Lord (YHVH) caused fire to come down from heaven, and literally kill the other rebel leaders (who represented the other tribes). And, because the Lord (YHVH) killed off the rebels in such a *spectacular* way (not

normal; it had never happened before), it *proved* that Moses and Aaron were not trying to 'lord over' the Israelites and, thus, they *truly were* appointed by God (YHVH) to govern the nation.

And this is a *very good* lesson for us today too, to teach us *why* we should *not* be rebellious. Not only should we obey the laws of the nation we live in (so long as they don't demand we disobey God's Laws) but, first and foremost, we should obey our Heavenly Father! And even if the Laws of the land demand we disobey the Lord (YHVH), *we still shouldn't be insurrectionists*. Rather, we are to simply *non-comply* with their wicked demands *regardless* of what they do to us. People like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Dan 6 and 3) show us how the Lord (YHVH) is fully able to save us from the wickedness of *any* government, **if** we remain *faithful* (and are not rebellious) to the Lord (YHVH) our God. And even if our fate is to die, for obeying the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. obeying and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ), we are promised *great* rewards in heaven (Matt 5:10-12); which means obtaining *eternal* life and being allowed to serve in Jesus Christ's righteous government, when He returns to rule the world forevermore (Rev 20:4-6). So, envy really is a terrible sin (of the *heart*) and can cause us to do terrible sins *outwardly*. This is the main 'lesson from history' we learned in our last study.

In part 6 we learned about another time Israel sinned *terribly*, and of the great intercession Moses made (on behalf of Israel) with the Lord (YHVH), who threatened to wipe them all out. And that terrible sin was when Israel made a golden calf (an idol) *and* worshipped it, *only forty days* (and nights) after they had made a Covenant with the Lord (YHVH) – where they promised *not* to worship any other gods, nor to make any graven images (idols), nor to bow down to them (the First and Second Commandments) – *all* of which were things they did *only forty days after* they **swore** *not* to do! Yet, despite Israel's great sin, the Lord (YHVH) did not destroy them *all*, thanks to Moses' intercession - when he reminded the Lord (YHVH) of His *unconditional* promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, albeit He did punish them by sending a plague among them. And we also learned that Moses' great intercession was a type of our Savior Jesus Christ. For He shed His righteous blood on the cross so that *anyone* who believes upon Him, repents for their sins *and obeys Him* (from the heart) will be forgiven. And thus, they will be spared from God's great wrath that *will* come upon all those who worship Satan, and make an image to his wicked beast system (participate in it), and bow down to it. So, the blessing of Jesus' interceding for us (by which we find salvation *and* eternal life, Heb 7:25) is the main point of the 'history lesson' we learned of in the last study. And that just reiterates the *overall* lesson, of this Psalm 106, which is *how gracious* the Lord (YHVH) was to deliver (and forgive) Israel *so many times*, despite their rebelliousness to Him.

In part 7 we learned how the children of Israel despised (spurned) the Promise Land because they believed the evil report (slander) that ten of the (twelve) spies so wickedly spread around the *entire* camp. Though they confessed the land was indeed a good land full of 'milk and honey', they didn't think they conquer the giants living in the land - *despite* what God had promised them and *despite* what the two good spies (Caleb and Joshua) testified to. As such, the people (yet again) murmured against Moses and Aaron (which means they ultimately were murmuring against our Heavenly Father) and even accused them (i.e. God) of only bringing them into the

wilderness to die! Worse yet, they spoke of appointing a *new* leader, to lead them *back into Egypt*, where they were *slaves*! And God's initial reaction to this was to wipe them all out. Yet, because Moses intervened (again), the Lord only smote the slanderous spies with a plague. However, it was at this time that God condemned that generation of Israelites (who were twenty years and older) to die in the wilderness. He promised they would not be allowed to inherit the Promise Land (because of their consistent lack of faith and rebelliousness) and, instead, they would have to wander around in the wilderness for forty more years (forty years for the forty days the spies searched out the land), until all of that faithless generation died off.

And we also saw the Psalmist compare Israel's *continual* lack of faith, rebelliousness and murmurings (against the Lord, YHVH) during their time in the wilderness, to the promise that Israel would be cast out of the Promise Land, and scattered amongst the nations, **if** they did as their forefathers (in the wilderness) did (disobeying God, rebelling, murmuring, etc.). And, sadly, this did come to pass. But, our Heavenly Father also promised to *re-gather* Israel, which He *did do* during the Christian Era. So, the last study (again) showed us Israel's terrible faithlessness, and rebelliousness, towards our Heavenly Father, when they were in the wilderness… despite the fact that He freed them from Egyptian bondage! However, it also showed us (again) the extent of God's *great* mercy, and grace, in not killing them <u>all</u> off *and* in fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel.

In part 8 we learned of a time when Israel was in the wilderness and dwelling close to the Moabites, who were afraid of Israel. And they therefore (at the counsel of Balaam) *intentionally* sent their religious prostitutes to seduce the men of Israel into worshipping (even bowing down to) their false god Baal-peor. And they used a snare that's been used throughout all time, i.e. sexual seduction. And we learned that God caused a plague to break out upon Irael, because of this grievous sin. And it was only stopped when Aaron's grandson, Phinehas, boldly executed judgment upon an Israelite man who (in open defiance to the Lord, YHVH) *openly* took one of the Midianite's whores *into his tent*. Thus, Phinehas righteously thrust a spear *clear through* the Israelite man, *and* Midianitish woman (whore), *right as they were 'doing it'* in the tent! And we also learned that, this act was *so pleasing* to our Heavenly Father He gave Phinehas a 'covenant of peace' and promised him an everlasting priesthood, which means the priesthood would continue on through *his* descendants.

And then we learned of the *one and only* time Moses really 'lost his cool'. For, after many years of putting up with their imprudent complaints and rebelliousness, when the children of Israel *again* chided with him (*again* accusing him of bringing them into the wilderness to die, because there was no water where they were camping) he became *incredibly* angry with them. And that's what caused him to disobey the Lord's (YHVH's) command to simply 'speak' to the rock. Instead, he angrily asked the rebellious Israelites if he, and Aaron, had to *again* get water for them… and he then *struck* the rock *twice*, instead of simply *speaking* to it (as God commanded). Because of this, the Lord (YHVH) would not let Moses (or Aaron, who didn't stop Moses from striking the rock) enter the Promise Land. And this shows us just *how fair* our Heavenly Father is (not a 'respecter of persons'). For He wouldn't allow, even His *top two* servants (Moses and

Aaron), to go without punishment. Yet, He still graciously allowed the water to gush forth out of the rock (despite Moses' not obeying Him) so Israel could have the water needed to sustain themselves, their children and animals. We also learned that, even though the Lord (YHVH) forgave Moses (and Aaron) for this incident, His judgment (of not allowing them to enter the Promise Land) stood firm. And that's because, even when we are forgiven, we may still have to endure God' chastisements (Heb 12). So, in the last study we learned of several more examples of *why* it's *so vital* to keep our faith in the Lord (YHVH) *strong* and *strive* (sincerely) *to obey Him*. For truly, without *true* faith in the Lord (YHVH) we'll *never* be able to receive the 'rest' (peace) He has promised us. Not in the flesh life (peace of mind) nor when Jesus Christ returns (i.e. obtaining the first resurrection to eternal life).

In part 9 we learned about Israel's failure to keep God's Laws when they were in the Promise Land. For they didn't 'utterly destroy' the heathen but, instead, mingled with them and learned their wicked ways, even that of idolatry. And, eventually, they became so corrupted that the land became polluted with blood, even with the blood of their own children. For some people even sacrificed (murdered) their own children to devils (i.e. fallen angels)! Yet, they themselves became defiled (sick) from their filthy ways (sexual perversion and unclean eating) because they continued to whore after the false gods, and idols (which represented the false gods). And because of this, the Lord's (YHVH's) wrath was greatly kindled against them, for He abhorred the abominations of His 'inheritance' (Israel was to be His inheritance because they were supposed to be His 'servant nation' who would spread His righteous Laws to the world). That's why He allowed heathen nations to invade, conquer and subjugate them, which was true to His Word (in Deut 28 and Lev 26) to send cursings when they disobeyed Him. Yet, when they cried out to Him for help (in sincere repentance) He *always* delivered them.

So, Israel's time in the 'Promise Land' was a continuous cycle of idolatry, oppression, repentance, and deliverance from the Lord (YHVH) - who was always faithful to help them *because of* His great compassion *and* because of His promises to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel. And He was even compassionate on those who were taken captive, by the heathen nations, for He caused Israel's captives to show them pity. And, while we don't know for sure *when* this Psalm was written, it was clearly at a time when Israel was in great distress and, at least *some* of them, had been taken captive (which could have been at *several* points in time of their history in the Promise Land). And that's why the Psalmist ended this Psalm by pleading with the Lord (YHVH) God (Elohiym) to save Israel, and to gather them from the heathen nations, so they praise His holy name (character). And saw the Psalmist end this beautiful Psalm with call for all the people of Israel to 'bless the Lord' (as in Ps 103-104) forever and to affirm the truth written in this Psalm with an 'amen'. The Psalmist then ended this Psalm with a 'Praise Ye the Lord', which is (in the Hebrew) 'Hallelujah'! And what this taught us was that, when we take the 'ending thoughts' of first three 'hallelujah' Psalms (104-106) we see three 'key' (critically important) elements to Jesus Christ's return (His Second Advent), which are: salvation, obeying God's Laws and the wicked being consumed (deposed and eventually put to death). For, of a truth, salvation (and 'rest', i.e. peace) *does come from* our Savior (Jesus Christ) putting an end to the wicked people (their control over us as well as their eventual death *if* they don't accept

Jesus by the end of the Millennium) and helping us learn how to obey His righteous Laws, which are for our good (Deut 10:13).

Therefore, after the wicked are consumed, and we learn to obey our Heavenly Father, we can finely find the true 'rest' (peace) that this 'Numbers book' has been teaching us about! And while we (who love and obey God/Jesus) can obtain peace of mind (and protection) ***even now*** (Isa 26:3; John 14:27, 16:33, etc.), it's only when Jesus Christ returns that the *entire world* will *finally* live in peace, and safety, *forever.* And we also learned that the last verse of the Psalm (106:48) is a 'closing praise' that denotes that, this is the *end* of the 'Numbers book' of the Psalm, which is common in the other chapters that ended the other 'books' of the Psalms (Ps 41:13, 72:19, 89:52).

AMEN.