Review of the Psalms - Chapters 90-94 (Numbers Book, part 1)

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 90

In chapter ninety, part 1 we learned we've come to a new 'phase' in the Book of the Psalms, which is the "Numbers Book" – and the 'theme' of it is "***The Earth and the Nations***". And the subject/title of this 90th chapter was "***Rest. Lost and Needed.***' And it's also a *Prayer of Moses the man of God*, which means it was Moses' intercessory prayer, for Israel, when they were wandering in the wilderness. And they were stuck wandering in the wilderness, for forty years, because all the fighting men (20 years and older) were condemned to die in the wilderness *because* they refused to invade the Promise Land when God told them to. And Moses began this precious 'intercessory prayer' by giving our Heavenly Father 'due respect' in acknowledging the power, might and strength He has over *all* of His creation (Rev 4:11, Ezek 18:4). And Moses also pointed out that, the Lord had been their dwelling place throughout all the time they had been in the wilderness - which is symbolic for how He is truly our 'dwelling place', *spiritually,* when we keep our heart and mind *firmly on Him*, His Word and Son, Jesus Christ *and strive* to sincerely *obey* Him as well. And truly, because our Heavenly Father created this beautiful earth for us to live in, that's another reason we could say that He has been our 'dwelling place'. For even the earth we live on, and the air we breathe, *belong to Him*. And Moses also brought out the fact that our Heavenly Father existed *before* the mountains were created (at the beginning of this earth age), *and even before* the earth was formed (in the first earth age). Clearly, that's because HE created them.

In part 2 we learned how truly temporary our flesh life is. So short, in fact, that Moses likened it to grass that grows up and flourishes in the morning (which is symbolic of when we are young) but then wilts when the sun hits it, and ends up withering away by the evening (which is symbolic for how we grow old and then die). And Moses also pointed out how God has appointed *all* of us to die in the flesh body (Heb 9:27) because that's a part of His plan of salvation. We *must* experience what death is so we know *how serious* death of our soul and spirit is. But, unlike most of us, the men living during the time this Psalm was written *literally* knew that 'their days were numbered', because God had condemned them to die within forty years of their refusing to enter the Promise Land (Num 14). And that's why Moses reiterated *how* frail our flesh bodies are and also how short our lives in the flesh are too. And there must have been *a lot* of people dying at that time because he likened their many deaths to God sweeping them away 'as with a flood'.

But Moses was also careful to point out the *great contrast* to the fragility, and mortality, of flesh man with the *eternality* of our Heavenly Father. While we on earth are consumed by time (because of the inevitability of our flesh dying), God is not - because death has *no power* over our Heavenly Father. Nor did death have power over His Son, Jesus Christ, who *literally* raised

from the dead and *still lives yet to day* in heaven (Heb 2:14). And that's why Moses said that a thousand years to us are as but yesterday (one day) to our Heavenly Father – even as a 'watch' (merely a few hours) to Him. And that's why He is *so very* patient to make sure His plan of Salvation (through Jesus Christ) is perfectly carried out. For He wants *all* His children to have the opportunity to come to Him, through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Pt 3:9), before 'the end comes' (i.e. before Jesus' Second Advent).

In part 3 we learned more about how things were 'in the wilderness' when Moses wrote this Psalm. Earlier in the Psalm (vs 5) Moses pointed out that there were *so many* people dying, at that time, that it was as if God was sweeping them away 'with a flood'. And he continued on to explain the reason for this: it was because they continued to stir up God's wrath by their lack of faith in Him, ingratitude and outright rebelliousness. Moses also pointed out how God saw <u>all</u> of their iniquities (perverse/corrupted spirits) *and* <u>all</u> of their 'secret sins'. And that's because God can see into <u>all</u> of *our* hearts and minds (still today too). So, there's no thought we have, nor anything we long for, that He doesn't know about. So, not only are our actions an 'open book' to Him, so are the thoughts and desires of our mind and heart. There's *nothing* that we have done, nor anything that we 'secretly desire', that He doesn't know about! And that's why God alone is the perfect judge. And so, He rightly judged that rebellious generation to die in the wilderness. So, unlike all other generations, their days (left to live) were quite literally 'numbered'. Therefore, they were not living past the age of eighty, no matter how hard they tried (with few exceptions such as Moses, Caleb and Joshua of course). And Moses also pointed out that our Heavenly Father's wrath is only towards those who *don't* fear Him. And that's in the sense of fearing to do evil *as well as* respecting Him too. So, it was because the Israelites *didn't* fear to sin against Him, and thus clearly had *no respect* for Him, that He therefore judged them to die in the wilderness. And they truly deserved it. And Moses knew this.

Yet, he still prayed that God would teach them to 'number' their days so they could apply their hearts to wisdom (God's wisdom, of course). Essentially, Moses was asking God would help them make a good repentance before they died and that the younger generations would learn not to be rebellious. And this, therefore, is wise advice for us today too. For while we don't know *when* we'll die (like those Israelites did) we do know it'll come *someday*. And that 'day' *might* be *tomorrow*! So, we too should live our life to serve, and please, our Heavenly Father *instead of* for the 'lusts of the flesh' - as most of the rebellious Israelites living in Moses' day did. This not only makes for a happy life in the flesh (it gives us true peace of mind) but it also ensures we'll die with peace in our heart, knowing we lived our life to serve our Heavenly Father the best we possibly could. And that is what takes the fear out of departing from our flesh body (dying).

In part 4 we saw Moses delve into the 'intercessory' part of his prayer. Thus, he asked the Lord (YHVH) *how long* He would stay mad at Israel and keep His distance from them; it had apparently been a while since Moses heard from God. And so, he then asked the Lord (YHVH) to *have pity on* Israel and *console them* by giving them His mercy (kindness) to 'satiate' (lift up) their grief-stricken spirits, which were pretty low due to all the people dying off 'as a flood'. Moses also asked the Lord (YHVH) to grant Israel gladness for as long as they had experienced

sorrow, because of the chastisements of the Lord (YHVH). Israel was only a couple of years away from entering the Promise Land. And those who would be allowed to enter (the younger generation) needed to keep their heart and mind focused *on that*, and not allow themselves to be depressed by all the death they saw. And Moses also wanted the *younger generation* (59 years and younger) to be able to see God's mighty works (and his wonderous glory) *to prepare them* to enter the Promise Land. In other words, he wanted the younger generation to be assured that the Lord would indeed help them inherit the Promise Land, just as He had freed their forefathers (and even some of them) from Egypt. That's why he also asked that the Lord's (YHVH's) favors, and power (glory), be shown to them and their children (grandchildren, etc.) as well.

And Moses ended his intercessory prayer by asking the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty (our Creator) that His delight (and therefore grace) would be upon them and that He would 'establish' the work of their hands; and he asked for that *twice* - ***for emphasis***. And the 'work of their hands' they were to do was to *serve the Lord* (YHVH)! After all, as Moses points out several times in this Psalm, they were *His* 'servant nation' (Deut 14:3, 26:16-19). And they were *supposed to* serve Him by *obeying* His Law, which included His Commandment, Statutes, Judgments and (at that time) ordinances too. And the *purpose for* their being God's '*servant* nation' was to *conquer* the heathen nations and *bring peace to the world* (Isa 41:8-10, 44:1-2, 21, 48:20, Isa 49:3; Jer 51:19-21). That's why God told Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel that their 'seed' (i.e. their descendants, which especially looked forward to Jesus Christ, the Messiah) would be a blessing *to all nations* (Gen 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14). So, essential, Moses asked the Lord to help Israel fulfill her destiny to inherit the Promise Land so *they could* take the 'Gospel' to the world. And, despite their sins and short falls, *they would do so* because our Heavenly Father's Word *always* comes to pass. It was His will to use Israel to share the truth (i.e. the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which even the OT teaches) to the world. And, *through Jesus Christ* (who is of Israel, Heb 2:14), that *has* been fulfilled, *is* being fulfilled and *will continue* to be fulfilled!

Chapter 91

In chapter ninety-one, part 1, we learned that the subject/title of this Psalm is "***Rest Provided In, And For Messiah***". And it was written (likely by Moses) for the comfort of "the Church in the wilderness", which were those *not* condemned to die in the wilderness during the 40 years of penal wanderings in the wilderness. While Psalm 90 spoke much about the sorrows of the vast multitude in the wilderness, who were condemned to die within forty years, this Psalm 91 (on the other hand) presents the contrast of those under the 'shadow of the Almighty'. Thus, we also learned about an analogy our Heavenly Father used. Just as an eagle protects here eaglets, and also teaches them to fly, by using her wings, so too did our Heavenly Father protect Israel with His cloud (that He was in via His flying vehicle) as they were coming out of Egypt *and* in the wilderness.

But, we also learned that this beautiful type, which was physical for Israel back then, has an astounding *spiritual* lesson for us today. For, we also learned that the *spiritual* application of dwelling in the 'secret place' of the Most High (YHVH) means *to trust in* God, and in Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate). It is our *trust in* the Word of God that keeps us *spiritually* close to

Him (i.e. *in* His 'secret place), who is on the throne in heaven. And so long as we *continue* to trust in, *and obey*, God (and Jesus, John 8:31-32) we will *always* remain under His protective 'shadow' of His precious 'wings' via the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit, that dwells *within us*. And that's because Jesus Christ is our intercessor, who is literally at the right hand of God (Rom 8:26-34) – i.e. He's *also* in the 'secret place' of the Most High. And that's why Jesus told us we *must* 'abide in Him' (keep our heart and mind firmly on Him) and He 'in us' (His Words and Holy Spirit in us) *if* we want to be, *and remain,* part of the Vine (in the 'secret place', being spiritually close to God), which is the Body of Christ that will rule with Jesus Christ (forevermore) when He returns (John 15). But, being part of the 'Vine' is also what makes us productive servants *here on earth* and ensures we'll *always* be under the protection of God's mighty wings (shadow) as we serve Him in a world full of sin and wickedness.

In part 2 we learned how, when we dwell (and *remain*) in the 'secret place' of the Most High (i.e. stay *spiritually* close to our Heavenly Father via studying His Word and praying to Him) then we'll *always* be able to find peace of mind, and internal strength, from trusting in God's Word no matter how hard times get. And Moses used the terms 'refuge' and 'fortress' to explain the protection our Heavenly Father gives us, when we love and serve Him. A "refuge" is *a place people can fall back to* in times of hardship or danger. A fortress is similar, but the typical "fortress" is a building designed for battle. It provides safety from an attacking enemy and gives those inside *the means to withstand an assault*. So, whenever we're having hard times, the Word of God is what we can (and should) *always* 'fall back to' by studying, and *remembering*, the Scriptures, which *give us hope* that the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us through whatever comes our way. And, when we do this, the Holy Spirit will *always* give us the strength to endure (withstand) whatever spiritual attacks (assaults) that come our way.

And we also learned of two things we'll be protected *from* when we abide under the shadow (protection) of His wings (His Word and Holy Spirit). And one of them is the 'snare of the fowler', which symbolizes the many ways Satan tries to 'entrap us' by enticing us to sin against our Heavenly Father. Satan's ultimate goal is to try to get all of God's children to apostatize, which means to rebel against God by *willfully* (and *habitually*) sinning against Him. But, if we keep our heart and mind firmly on God's Word (our 'Rock') then we won't fall into Satan's traps (snares). And, if we should happen to stumble (for we all sin at times, Rom 3:23) the Lord will help us to get back up (repent) and learn from the experience, so we become stronger in our faith and learn how to better resist temptations. And we also learned that, if we continue to 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High' (trust and obey Him), then He'll also protect us from the noisome pestilence, which is an *epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating* and is also symbolic of *something that is destructive or pernicious*. And, while this doesn't mean we won't ever get sick, it means He won't let us be ruined (spiritually or physically) by any diseases going around *and* He certainly *will not* let us die before it's our time to go. Our Heavenly Father will *always* make sure we've got what we need (decent health included) to serve Him in the capacity He wants us to do so. That is, however, so long as we do our part to take care of our flesh body and strive not to step into Satan's traps on purpose! So long as we do our part to stay under His

protective wings (in the 'secret place') then He'll always protect us *and* enable us to serve Him on earth.

In part 3 we learned more about the protection the Lord (YHVH) will give us *when* we dwell in the 'secret place' of the Most High (i.e. stay *spiritually* close to our Heavenly Father via studying His Word and praying to Him). And He gave us two analogies that explain the protection we receive *when* we keep our heart and mind firmly focused on God's Word and strive to obey Him (sincerely) each day. The first was the wings, and feathers, of a mother bird. When we continue to dwell in the 'secret place' of the Most High (i.e. study God's Word to absorb it into our heart, and mind, so that we can sincerely strive to obey Him) He will keep His 'feathers and wings' over us *by His Holy Spirit* that, literally, dwells *within us*. The Holy Spirit of God puts a 'cover' (or a hedge; a spiritual 'fence' of protection) upon us (physically and spiritually) when we keep our heart and mind firmly upon His Word. But, we must *remain under* His 'hedge of protection', i.e. God's feathers and wings, which are symbolic of His Word and guidance of His Holy Spirit. If we neglect to study God's Word – or to strive to obey it sincerely – then we are like a little chick that runs out from its mother's wings and is thus, susceptible to being preyed upon by hawks and other birds of prey. Truly, *our only protection in life is when we remain spiritually connected to our Heavenly Father.* And ***it is the word of God*** (i.e. Jesus Christ; John 1:1,14, 6:63) ***that connects us to our Heavenly Father*** (spiritually) **because *His written Word IS His Holy Spirit in written form*** (John 6:63). So, *every time you study God's Word, you are willingly taking the Holy Spirit into you* – if you are *sincerely* seeking Him (*the* truth).

And, the second analogy we learned of likened God's truth (i.e. His Word) to a shield and a buckler. The truth (God's Word) will protect us in all our ways (as a shield all around us, or even a 'coat of mail') so that we won't be harmed… so long as we keep the truth firmly in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts), just as a person keeps their shield up to protect their body when they're fighting in a war. And, as Paul pointed out in Eph 6:16, the most important part of the Gospel Armor (i.e. our spiritual armor) is *the shield of faith* because *that* enables us to 'quench all the fiery darts of the wicked', which are lies and deception (perversions of the truth). And we need this *because* it is lies and deception that Satan uses *to deceive people* into giving up their faith in God (i.e. Jesus Christ). So, just as we must remain under God's protective wings (His Word and guidance of His Holy Spirit) so too must we keep our shield of faith up… **if** we want to be protected!

In part 4 we learned of four more things that those who dwell (and *remain*) in the 'secret place of the Most High' (love and serve God faithfully) will be protected from. And this was true for those in Moses' day (who were *not* condemned to die, due to their rebelliousness) as well as for us today. So, we learned that there is no 'terror by night', 'arrow that flieth by day', 'pestilence that walketh in darkness' nor any 'destruction that wasteth at noonday' that will afflict us **if** we keep our heart and mind firmly on God's Word and strive to obey Him *faithfully*. Thus, while there were thousands upon thousands of people (the older generation condemned to die from their rebelliousness) that died all around the younger people (from the various agencies described above) *none of them* were harmed from those things. And that's an excellent example (1 Cor

10:11) of how we too will be protected (spiritually and physically) when we serve Jesus Christ faithfully. While we might get sick, and troubles will surely come our way at times (as it does for all who faithfully serve Jesus Christ, 2 Tim 3:12), *nothing* will destroy our faith in Jesus Christ *nor* stop us from fulfilling our mission in life to spread the Gospel, through whatever gift(s) God has given us – that is, so long as we *continue* to dwell in the 'secret place of the Most High' by loving and serving God (Jesus) faithfully (John 8:31-32).

And, just as the younger people in Moses' day truly did see the 'reward' (punishment) of the wicked (older generation who rebelled consistently against God) – by seeing them die off 'as a flood' (Ps 90:5) – so too are we promised to see the reward (punishment) of those who worship Satan, and his wicked beast governing system, which will be when the *true* Jesus Christ returns to take over the world. For, Jesus' holy angels *will* gather both the good and the bad people, and *separate them* for judgment. And, just as the wicked will get to see the righteous (those faithful to Jesus Christ) rewarded with *eternal* life - and *then* given authority to rule the world *with Him* - so too will the righteous get to see the wicked one's punishments that they *so richly* deserve.

In part 5 we learned of more promises to those who 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High' by loving, and serving, our Heavenly Father. And when we continue to flee to Him for help (spiritually) then no evil will overtake us, physically or spiritually. And, while that doesn't mean we won't have hard times, nor that we'll never get sick, it means we *won't be destroyed* by those things, for our Heavenly Father promises not to let anything happen to us that we cannot endure and overcome (1 Cor 10:11). And He also won't let us (when we serve Him faithfully) depart from this flesh body (i.e. die) until it's 'our time to go'. We are, after all, *His* servants *on earth*. And He promises to help us *serve Him* while we're here. That's why this Psalm also promises that God will give us what some might call 'guardian angels' to help protect us *when* we're serving *the Lord* (YHVH) on the frontlines of the spiritual battle (i.e. here on earth). And we also learned about one of Satan's favorite methods of tempting people: by using Scripture! Thus, while Satan quoted from verses 11-12 (while tempting Jesus Christ) he did *not* do so *accurately*. Instead, he *left out* the words 'in all thy ways' and then *added* the words 'lest at any time' (Mth 4:6). And this totally *perverted* the Scriptures. And that's what we must be on guard for too (2 Cor 11:13-15). But thankfully, we also learned how to spiritually fight against that; for Jesus simply quoted Scripture back (accurately), which proved Satan was twisting the Scriptures (Mth 4:7). This teaches that we spiritually fight against lies (all perversions of God's Word) with *truth*. That's why Eph 6:17 calls the Word of God our *spiritual* sword, which is (by the way) our *only* offensive weapon, *spiritually* speaking. And then we also learned about God's promise to give us power to tread upon 'the lion, young lion, adder and a dragon'. And, as Lk 10:19 reveals, Jesus did indeed give us power over 'all the enemy' but only 'in His name' (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26). So, there are rich, and abundant promises in this great Psalm 91. And we have only to learn to *claim* them, by learning how to *trust and obey* our Heavenly Father (i.e. 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High', vs 1).

In part 6 we learned of yet *more* promises to those who 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High' by setting their love upon the Lord God Almighty (YHVH) and knowing His name. When

we fervently seek, love and obey our Heavenly Father, then He'll always deliver us from tribulations, and temptations, so that we can serve Him faithfully. While this is not a promise that we'll never have hard times, or get sick in the flesh, it's a promise that these things won't ever destroy us or make us unable to serve the Lord. And, just as God set Jesus Christ 'on high' and gave him 'length of days' (through the resurrection) – *because* Jesus faithfully obeyed God, set His love upon Him and knew His name - so too does God promise to do so for us, when we faithfully serve Jesus Christ. For, just as God gave Jesus Christ 'length of days' by rising His flesh body from the dead (so He now has eternal life) so too does God promise to give us eternal life. And, just as God 'set Him on high' (Jesus Christ) so too will He do, *for us*, when Jesus Christ returns. For, those who earnestly seek, love and serve our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) will not only receive *eternal* life, but also the *great* honor of *serving* in Jesus' eternal government when He returns to take control of the entire earth. Yet, even before that, obeying our Heavenly Father will also give us great peace of mind and, most likely, lengthen our days on earth too. For those who obey God's health laws (etc.) are much more inclined to live longer than those who eat unhealthily and abuse their body with perverted sex, drugs, etc.

Chapter 92

In chapter ninety-two, part 1, we learned the subject/title of this Psalm was a "***Prayer and Praise For Sabbath Rest***". So, it's a beautiful Psalm (or song) that not only prophesies of the Sabbath rest that is *yet to come* (during the Millennium), but it also teaches us how we can have *spiritual* rest (peace of mind) even yet *today*. For while our flesh bodies *do* need one day to rest, out of the week to rest (whatever day works for you), what's even *more* important is learning to *spiritually* rest by learning of, trusting in, *and obeying* God's Word. And truly, we need that *every* day! And that's also what this beautiful Psalm teaches us to do, which is why it began by telling us we *should* give thanks, and sing praises, to Yehovah, who truly is the Most High. For, giving thanks to the Lord (YHVH) is not only pleasing to our Heavenly Father, it's also <u>good for us</u> because being thankful is *a vital part of the spiritual warfare* (Eph 6). And this is because, learning to put God at the forefront of our heart and mind (and not 'self') creates in us a rejoicing and *thankful* attitude, which is *what enables us to persevere through all hard times*.

And we also learned it's good that we share the truth with others (such as His lovingkindess and trustworthiness) so others can be blessed by having a personal relationship with the Lord (via Jesus Christ). And lastly, we also learned the power that music has to lift up our spirit *and* to help us *remember* God's Word. That's why God's Word has so often been put to music (such as the Psalms we're studying); it's because it helps people to *remember* God's Word so they can strive to *obey it* (and obtain God's blessings). And this was even more important in the day and age when most people didn't know *how* to read, nor did most have a Bible they *could* read. So, the first part of this lovely Psalm laid the foundation for the importance of learning to spiritually 'rest' (trust and obey) in the Lord (Jesus Christ), which is what *truly* 'observing' the Sabbath day really is.

In part 2 we began to learn the reasons *why* we should give thanks to the Lord (YHVH), praise His name and share the truth about His faithfulness and kindness with others. And one of the

reasons *why* is because the 'works of the Lord (YHVH)' are truly mighty and too numerous to count. Thankfully, we have God's written Word, which teaches us about many of His mighty works, of which His beautiful plan of salvation is paramount. And, God's thoughts are *so deep* that, even though we study His Word our entire life, we'll never understand it all. Just when we think we 'know it all', if we 'go back to the basics' and study them again, we'll see that we did not fully comprehend them the first (or last) time we studied them! And that's what should motivate us to study God's Word our *whole life*. And truly, learning of God's 'wonderful works', which He has written in His Word, does give us so much to be glad for, *and* to praise Him for. Not only for the salvation He's given us, but because it reveals the joy and happiness that He's promises us eternally, to those who love Him. And thankfully, we can even partake of that great joy *now*. For, when we study His Word, and strive hard to obey Him, His Holy Spirit gives us great joy (and peace of mind) even yet today (Ps 16:11, Isa 26:3-4).

In part 3 we learned that the brutish (stupid) man and the fool (stupid, silly) simply don't know how great God's works are, nor how wonderfully 'deep' (wise) His thoughts are. They either reject the thought of God existing at all, follow 'false gods' (and idols), or cleave to the 'traditions of man' that totally make void God's Word. And that's why *they are rebellious fools* despite being 'smart' in the 'ways of the world'. And that's also why God *doesn't* allow them into the *true* 'Church' (the Body of Christ) and thus *won't* use them to govern the world when Jesus Christ returns. And we also learned of an analogy (which we've seen used before in Psalm 37 and 90) that the Psalmist used to explain that the brutish (stupid) man, and the fool (stupid, silly), also don't understand their coming *demise* for remaining rebellious to the Lord (YHVH). For, just as grass grows up quickly, so do people. We're young (flourishing) only for a short time before we then wither (grow old) and then die (are cut down). So, the wicked (and the wicked 'workers of iniquity') *will* be 'cut down' (die in the flesh) just as we all do. And all their ill-gotten gains won't help them when they appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive things done in their body, according to what they've done (2 Cor 5:10).

In part 4 we learned that our Heavenly Father truly is the *Supreme* God who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is what His name, Yehovah, means (#3068). And then we also learned that all of His enemies will, eventually, perish, which means that they will be totally 'blotted out of existence', just as the 'fat of lambs' goes up into smoke and *dissipates into nothing* (literally). And then we also learned that all of the wicked 'workers of iniquity' will be *separated from* their positions of authority, and even imprisoned, when Jesus Christ returns. And, no matter how hard they try and fight against Jesus (Satan will try to gather all the armies of the world against Him), *they will lose*. Not only will Jesus come at a time they are not expecting (as a thief in the night) but He will come with his holy angels in *mighty* flying vehicles that will be *so overwhelming in power* that no one can stop them from gathering up all the people on earth *for judgment*. And that's truly what this part of Psalm 92 looks forward to as well - because it's a '*Prayer and praise for the Sabbath rest*' – and the *ultimate* 'rest' (Sabbath) *cannot* come until the *true* Jesus Christ returns and ushers in the Millennial period.

In part 5 we learned how the righteous will be given *great* power (over the wicked) at Jesus' Second Advent. For, He'll not only depose all the wicked ones, and 'workers of iniquity' (as we learned of in verse 9), He will also raise up (exalt) the righteous, which means He'll install His own government (the Body of Christ), which will consist *only* of those who have *remained loyal* to Him, His Father and *His Word* (Rom 8:17; Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:4-6). Thus, while the enemies of the Lord will perish *and* the workers of iniquity will be scattered (separated from the righteous ones, Mth 13:47-50), the righteous ones (those who remain faithful to the *true* Jesus Christ) will not only be exalted high above all others (by being allowed to govern the world with Jesus Christ when He returns) but they'll also be forever 'refreshed' by God's blessed Holy Spirit (i.e. given eternal life), which is what the 'fresh oil' in Ps 92:10 represents. Thus, we also learned that the righteous will 'see' (and in look intently at) their enemies (their foes, who have been 'lying in wait' to kill them, spiritually and/or physically) when the *true* Jesus Christ returns. And they'll even be able to hear (intelligently and with great attention) the demise of the wicked ones and the 'workers of iniquity'; which is why Mth 13:42 says they'll hear their '*wailing and gnashing of teeth*' of the wicked ones (and workers of iniquity, Mth 7:21-23) when Jesus Christ returns. And that simply refers to the immense complaining, and abundant crying, they'll be doing because they realize they worshiped the false Christ (Satan) instead of true Jesus Christ and they are now in very *bad* 'standing' with the King of kings and Lord of lords. So, this beautiful Psalm has been just *full* of promises; and it's also *immensely* prophetical.

In part 6 we learned of the blessings that the true 'Sabbath Rest' (i.e. at Jesus Christ's return, during the Millennium) will have upon those who remain loyal to the *true* Jesus Christ (and don't worship Satan, nor take the 'mark of the beast'). For, they will *flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon*, which means they'll be morally upright (as a palm tree grows very straight) and *abundantly* fruitful, spiritually (just as a date palm tree is). And that's because (like a cedar tree) they have their spiritual roots (heart and mind) firmly 'rooted into' God's Word. And we further learned that they'll also *be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God*, which is prophetical for when Jesus Christ returns. For, after He deposes the wicked ones from all positions of authority on earth (and cleans Jerusalem during the 'day of vengeance') He will then 'plant' (install) His own government (the Body of Christ) in the Millennial Temple (God's house). And, because Jesus Christ will be the King of kings (leading and guiding them as they govern the world) the righteous will flourish greatly, in His courts, as they judge for Him *and* teach His children how to truly obey God, *from the heart*. And, because they'll also be given eternal life when Jesus Christ returns (the first resurrection) they'll be fertile (fat) and flourishing no matter how much time goes by. And the fact that the Lord (YHVH) – through Jesus Christ – rewards the righteous shows that He is upright and totally uncorruptible (not evil). Like His Father (YHVH), Jesus Christ doesn't pervert judgment and His faithful government (the Body of Christ) won't either, because they made His Word their moral foundation *and stuck with it*, faithfully serving Him, and brining forth great spiritual fruit, even while in the flesh. That's why they are entrusted to govern, with Jesus Christ, for the Millennium.

Chapter 93

In chapter ninety-three, part 1, we learned that the Lord (YHVH) – via Jesus Christ (who is God, Heb 1:3, Col 1:15, John 1:1,14) – *will* reign with *great* majesty, and strength, when He finally returns to the earth. And this is what causes the earth to be established (set upright) in a spiritual sense. For when Jesus reigns with His un-corruptible government, the Body of Christ, all people (who did not make the first resurrection) will be judged righteously *and* taught the truth (finally). But, we also learned that, when Jesus does return, the earth *also* will be established. And that means it will be put back upright, onto its *original* axis, after the Lord 'shakes' the earth with a *great* earthquake. And it will *never again* be shaken (knocked off its axis, as it was at the end of the first earth age) because Jesus Christ will rule the earth (and heaven too) forevermore. Further, we also learned that, despite the fact that the earth was shaken (to destroy all things connected to Satan's rebellion) - and will be again (along with heaven, Heb 12:26), when Jesus returns - our Heavenly Father has *always* remained on His throne, ruling *the entire time*. In other words, nothing can shake Him! And, as Hebrews 12 also points out, only those whose faith *cannot be shaken* (away from the *true* Jesus Christ) will be allowed to be a part of His eternal government, which (again) is why the earth itself won't ever be shaken again, and peace and prosperity will flourish as never before *after* Jesus returns (as Ps 92 spoke of).

In part 2 we learned how the 'floods' that lift up their 'voice' and 'waves' are being used, *metaphorically*, to refer to people *who rebel against* our Heavenly Father. We covered a lot of Scriptures to *prove* the point that waters, floods and the sea, are likened to *many* people, their armies, and even the lies they tell or even to explain their unrighteousness. And this is being pointed out - here in this Psalm that speaks of 'The Rest Desired' - *because* it speaks of *how* their rebellious 'floods and waves' will *never* be able to conquer (overcome) our Heavenly Father (Yehovah). And, consequently, they'll also never be able to cause those who have their heart and mind firmly planted on *the* 'Rock' (God's Word, Jesus Christ) to fall *spiritually* into their wicked rebellion against God Almighty (Yehovah). And the reason for this is, because our Heavenly Father (via Jesus Christ) truly has *full* control over the wind and the seas and all 'waters' – as Jesus proved when He calmed the stormy sea (and winds) with just *three small* words. So, no amount of floods (rebellion) will succeed, as Psalm 2 also taught us.

In part 3 we learned that it does not matter how much Satan, the fallen angels and the people on earth rebel against God Almighty (Jesus Christ) - *they'll never win* because our Heavenly Father (Jesus) is mightier than them all, *in every way*! He's not only smarter, totally without sin, and stronger than all of them… but He's also much, *much*, more powerful than Satan too. So, this Psalm is truly prophesying of Jesus Christ's return. But it also points out that, no matter how strong the army of Satan is against Him (no matter how the 'waves roar'), Jesus Christ will *still* ***conquer*** *them*, with *overwhelming* strength and power, when He returns and pours out God's 'cup of wrath', during the 'day of vengeance'. And *that is* what prepares the way for His righteous rein. And thus, Jesus will reign forever with His faithful followers and, as Ps 37:11 puts it, they *shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Chapter 94

In chapter 94, part 1, we learned that vengeance belongs, *solely,* to the Lord God Almighty (Yehovah). And, this beautiful Psalm taught us how to call upon Him to do just that; for He is faithful to reward the righteous *with blessings* and the wicked *with punishments*. But, we must also be careful to make sure our own heart and mind is clean and repent for any sins we do see, striving also to change them, from the inside out. Otherwise, we're only calling on God to judge ourself! But the Scriptures clearly tell us that God *does* take vengeance upon His enemies, and we should be *patient* for Him to do so - not trying to 'help' Him! However, that does not mean we have to be a 'walking matt' for anyone and we also have the right to defend our self, family, property and nation. But trying to get revenge *ourself* is not allowed because we often end up harming innocent people when doing so. And God also expects us to forgive others (from the heart) so the bitterness, and anger, doesn't 'eat us up' inside and cause us to do something *worse* than was done to us. However, it is certainly ok to seek punishment for criminals through the *legal* court systems. And if that does not prevail, we should simply take it to our Heavenly Father and leave it at that; for our Heavenly Father *will* right every wrong when Jesus Christ returns. And true faith in *that* (God's faithfulness to enforce justice and righteous judgment) is what will give us peace of mind, even when the wicked ones are still flourishing on the earth.

In part 2 we learned that, we're not the only ones who ask God 'how long' will the wicked will triumph, for the Psalmist of this lovely Psalm also asked that *three* times, *for emphasis*. It truly grieved him to see the horrible things going on. For, not only were the wicked (and workers of iniquity) afflicting the people of Israel (God's heritage) but, even the widows, fatherless and strangers (the most vulnerable people in society) were being murdered. So, there wasn't anyone in the country who was not being 'broken in pieces' (spiritually and/or physically) by people who were *so evil* that there was *nothing* they feared to do. And that's because they had absolutely *no* fear, let alone respect, for the Lord, Yehovah (the Supreme God) *who created us*. These morally degenerates knowingly broke God's Laws and *didn't care* because they didn't think *anyone* (not even God Almighty) could stop them. And, because there's nothing new (Ecc 1:9) these things still go on today. Yet, we must still be patient for the Lord (YHVH) to take vengeance upon the wicked ones, for He will, *in due time* (i.e. at the right time and in the right way).

In part 3 we learned that, those who are wicked (and workers of iniquity) are truly *very stupid* (brutish and foolish). While they might be wise in the 'ways of the world' (or in 'book learning') they are *morally* stupid, for they don't understand what the 'latter end' (consequences) is for those who do such evil things. For, the wicked (and workers of iniquity) will not *always* 'get away' with their vile sins. So, they need to 'wise up' (consider the consequences of their evil actions) and *repent* of their sins, so they might just find mercy from God, who will surely punish them for their sins without their sincerely repenting for them. And we also saw the Psalmist point out that, because our Heavenly Father is our Creator, He is fully able to see what we're doing (and saying) as well as what we are even *thinking* about doing and *desiring* (and planning) to do. So, nothing gets past Him - there are no 'secret sins'. And we also learned that our Heavenly Father is *not* a respecter of persons, which means that even He chastises those who He loves, be it Israel or the heathen nations. But, if we continue to rebel against His chastisements (over and over again), then He will eventually stop chastening us and let us go down to the 'bottom of the

barrel' until we get so miserable that we (hopefully) will turn back to Him. And then we also learned our Heavenly Father is well able to teach us knowledge (and wisdom) because He is the only true source of it! And, if we want to obtain that precious knowledge and wisdom (which gives us *eternal* life) we must put off our carnal way of thinking (living life for lusts, pride, etc.) and live to *serve Him*, which is the *only* thing that brings true peace of mind, prosperity and (eventually) eternal life. So, the Pslamist was essentially warning the wicked men (and workers of iniquity) that their fleshly thoughts (and desires) were only going to get them into trouble. For the wicked things they do (because they only think in the flesh) *will* be punished by God Himself. But, those who learn to conquer the 'carnal mind' (our heart, the part of us that wants to sin) – through Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit within us - will indeed be blessed by God.

In part 4 we learned of the great joy (happiness) that comes when our Heavenly Father chastises us and teaches us His ways (Laws). For God's chastisements keep us from going down *very bad* paths that not only lead to misery and pain but, eventually, death too (physical and spiritual). And the Lord teaching us from His Law (His Word) also is what gives us 'rest' (peace of mind, comfort, strength and blessings) while we serve Him in this flesh body. For, part of God's plan of salvation involves separating those who are incorrigible rebels from those who are salvageable. And therefore, our Heavenly Father gives us 'rest' while we're waiting for the 'pit' to be 'dug' (spiritually speaking) for the wicked ones, which refers (ultimately) to the return of Jesus Christ, which is going to be a *surprise* to all who are foolishly worshiping Satan (the antichrist) because they believed the 'great lie' that Satan tells (i.e. that he is 'God' and came to 'save us'). And we also learned that, while our Heavenly Father did allow Israel to be cast out of the Promise Land (and scattered throughout the nations, mostly into Europe and America) He never cast them off from being a people. That's why Jesus was sent to 'gather' Israel back and commissioned His disciples to go to His 'lost sheep' (Mth 10:6). But the genius of this is in the fact that, through saving Israel (via Jesus Christ) our Heavenly Father also opened salvation up to the 'gentiles' (all non-Israelite people), as the parable in Mth 13:44 well explains. That's why, after Jesus rose from the dead, He then commissioned His apostle to take the Gospel to the *entire* world (all races of people), not just to Israel (Mth 28:18-20).

In part 5 we learned that the Psalmist was being greatly persecuted by the wicked (and workers of iniquity) in Israel. And he apparently felt like no one else was standing up against them either, for he used several figures of speech (asking questions out of lamentation) asking who else would help him stand up against the wicked ones and workers of iniquity. And he also confessed that, while he did have doubts about whether he was doing the right thing at times, our Heavenly Father *always* comforted him <u>and</u> *always* delivered him out of all the traps (spiritually and physically) that the evil ones set for him. And that's why he had the confidence that judgment would eventually return to righteousness, which means he knew that *righteous* judgment will return to Israel. And while he was surely thinking about his own day and age, he was truly prophesying of the *impacts* that Jesus' return (and righteous judgement) will have. For while (at the time this Psalm was written) very wicked men were ruling in Israel, the Psalmist knew *they wouldn't always be*. That's why he asked God (earlier in the Psalm) to pour vengeance upon the wicked and then warned the wicked to repent of their evil ways, and then even admonished the

righteous to 'hang in there' and *keep doing what's right,* for the Lord *will* protect those who do so, *until* He punishes the wicked ones (and workers of iniquity).

In part 6 we learned that our Heavenly Father has *absolutely nothing* to do with 'iniquity', nor the *injustices produced by the desire for gain*. While He allows the wicked ones (even Satan) to live (in order to test His children to see if they'll repent and turn back to Him, or if they truly are incorrigible) they will eventually be 'cut off'. And that means, short of sincere repentance, *the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword* - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming out of their mouths* which they've used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father's kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). And, while it's grievous, and angering, to see the wicked seem to 'get away' with evil, *we cannot let those negative emotions control us*. After all, we know what God's Word promises us: the wicked will be 'brought down' by their own wicked words and works and thus, they *shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices* (Prov 1:31). But those who trust in (and obey) the Lord (YHVH) *faithfully* will be protected by our Heavenly Father, which is why we shouldn't try to 'help' Him with vengeance. At the right time, and in the right (just) manner, He will fully punish the wicked ones (and workers of iniquity). And, this will fully be accomplished at the return of Jesus Christ, who will pour out God's 'cup of wrath'. And, that's why the day the true Jesus Christ returns is also called the 'day of vengeance' (Lk 21:22). And that's why we should always remember to trust in God to take vengeance *instead o*f trying to 'help' Him do so because …

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

AMEN.