The Lord Loves the Righteous

Psalm 146
8 The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

So, after explaining how the Lord (YHVH) "*keepth the truth forever*" by executing justice for those who are oppressed, giving food (physical and spiritual) to those who are hungry, and freeing those who are enslaved (physically and spiritually), the Psalmist continues on explaining more ways He "*keepth the truth forever*". Now, the words '**openeth the eyes**' here are all one Hebrew word that mean ***to open the senses***, *especially* the eyes) and, figuratively, can also mean ***to be observant*** (#6491). And then the word '**blind**' does mean ***blind*** (literally or figuratively, #5787). And this was mightily proved, by Jesus Christ, *many* times throughout His ministry (Matt 15:30-31, 20:30-34, 21:14; Mark 8:22-25; Luke 7:22; John 9:1-7). And, this was actually one of the things the Scriptures *prophesied* that the Messiah *would* do, which Jesus pointed out to John's disciples (Matt 11:2-5). In other words, Jesus' healing those who were *physically* blind was one of the (many) miracles that *proved* He **was** the Messiah (Luke 4:17-19; Isa 29:18, 35:1-6, 42:6-8, 16, etc.). Yet, as the Scriptures also point out (Matt 9:27-29; Mark 10:46-52) it was their *faith in Jesus* that *caused* Him to heal them! So, this too also has a condition to it, i.e. faith in Jesus Christ is what causes us to be healed – both physically *and* spiritually – as Paul also found out (Acts 9:8-18)! That's why Paul later wrote to the Ephesians that, he prayed the Holy Spirit would give them the "*spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of*" Jesus Christ, so the "eyes" of their "understanding" would be "enlightened' (Eph 1:17-23). In other words, so their *spiritual* 'eyes' (mind) would be opened *to the truth*, so they could *fully* understand "*what is the exceeding greatness* ***of his power*** *to usward* ***who believe****, according to the working of* ***his mighty power***" (Eph 1:19)! So, our Heavenly Father has the power to open the eyes of those who are *physically* blind; yet, He *also* has the power to open the 'eyes' of our *mind* to the truth, which is His Word (John 17:17). And this too is yet another way He "*keepeth the truth forever*" ***within us***!

And then (going back to Ps 146:8), the Psalmist also says that "***the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down***", which David also spoke of in the last Psalm (145:14). And, as we learned when studying that verse, the words '**raiseth up**' mean ***to life***, i.e. (figuratively) ***comfort*** (#2210). And the words '**bowed down**' mean ***to curve*** (#3721). So, this is an analogy that explains how our Heavenly Father will raises up (and comfort) those who are physically, or spiritually, weak, which Paul also points out in Rom 8:26. For, people are (usually) only 'bowed down' when they are oppressed, sick, or worshipping something (which is done as an act of humility and submission). And David's use of this same Hebrew word (for 'bowed down', #3721) in Psalm 57:6, also proves this word is often used to express how *very* 'low' a person can *feel* when having *very* difficult troubles in their life. So, another way that our Heavenly Father "*keepeth the truth*

forever" is to raise up (and comfort) those who are 'bowed down', i.e. those who are very 'low' in spirit due to a difficult and/or troubling situation in their life. Of course, the condition to this is that we *must* call out to (via prayer) Him for help *in earnest* (Joel 2:32; Rom 10:13, etc.). And when we do, He *will* help us - in the *right* way and in the *right* time - and His timing is *always* best. As James 4:10 says, "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall* ***lift you up***". And, 1 Peter 5:6-7, likewise says, "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may* ***exalt you in due time****: Casting all your care* [worries] *upon him; for he careth for you*". So, our Heavenly Father will *always* lift up, and comfort, those who love, fear, trust in, *and obey* Him because ***that's His promise*** (Deut 4:29-31; Heb 13:5-6, etc.)!

And then, (going back to Ps 146:8), the Psalmist also says that "***the LORD loveth the righteous***". The word '**loveth**' here means ***to have affection for*** (#157) while the word '**righteous**' means ***just*** (#6662). And this comes from a prim root that means ***to be*** (or, ***make***) ***right*** (in a moral or forensic sense, #6663*). So, the essence of being 'righteous' means ***to be just*** and ***right*** (upright). And, this is *why* those who are righteous *earnestly* strive to obey (*from the heart)* God's Word, including His Laws (albeit we are *no longer* to offer blood sacrifices, since Jesus fulfilled them all; Heb 10:10, Col 2:14, Eph 2:15). For *all* the ways (and Laws) of the Lord (YHVH) *are righteous* judgment because He is a "God of truth" and thus He's also "without iniquity", "just" [#6662] and "right" (Deut 32:4). And even though we all fall short, and sin, at times (Rom 3:23), our Heavenly Father counts our *earnest* faith in Him (and Jesus Christ), *and* our earnestly *trying* to obey Him, as righteousness (Rom 3:24) … *so long as* we continue to repent when we sin *and* allow Him to teach us (via His Word and Holy Spirit) how to do better! And that's why Hab 2:4 says that, "*the just shall live by his faith*", which Paul quoted several times when making the same point (Rom 1:18; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38). And, to put it another way, when we believe God's Word, our *faith in Him* is counted, to us, for righteousness - just as it was for Abraham (Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3). **So, when the Psalmist says that the Lord (YHVH) "*loveth the righteous*", he is pointing out that our Heavenly Father loves those who *believe in* Him and thus, *earnestly try* (from the heart) *to obey* Him.** For, if we do believe in the Eternal God (who is the Almighty, and Supreme, God) we will *also* ***earnestly*** *try* to obey Him (John 14:15-18). And that is *so very pleasing* to our Heavenly Father! And that's why He'll "*executeth judgment*" (justice) for us when we're oppressed; why He feeds us with good food; frees us from captivity; opens our 'eyes' (mind); raises us up when we're "bowed down"!

Psalm 146
9 The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

So, after explaining how the Lord (YHVH) opens the eyes of the blind (physically and spiritually) and raises up (and comforts) those who are 'bowed down' (low in spirit from hard times and oppression) - *because* He loves those who believe in Him and are earnestly trying to

obey Him - the Psalmist tells us more ways "*keepth the truth forever*". The word '**preserveth**' here is again that special Hebrew word ***shamar***, which means ***to hedge about*** (as with thorns), i.e. ***guard***; and, generally, ***to protect, attend to, etc***. (#8104). And the word '**strangers**' means ***a guest*** or (by implication) ***a foreigner*** (#1616). So, the Psalmist also points out that, our Heavenly Father looks out for (guards, protects, attends to) those who are foreigners. And, while this is most certainly true, this does *not* give any nation the right to allow *unlimited* (or *unvetted*) foreigners to flood into their nation, as the Christian nations have so *foolishly* been doing for years. It simply means those who are *legally* visiting a foreign country will be guarded, protected and cared for by our Heavenly Father IF they love, fear and serve Him. So, we must not confuse these verses to legitimize the *invasion* of our country!

And then, we see the Lord (YHVH) also "***relieveth the fatherless and widow***". The word '**relieveth**' here means ***to duplicate*** or ***repeat***, (by implication) ***to protest, testify*** (as by reiteration), (intensively) to ***encompass*** or ***restore*** (as a sort of reduplication) (#5749). And the word '**fatherless**' means ***a bereaved person*** (#3490) and likely is referring to ***orphans***. And the word '**widow**' does mean ***a widow***, i.e. a woman who has lost her husband (#490). And by 'relieving' them, the Psalmist points out that He will provide for them (i.e. restore) even though they don't have a father, or husband, to do so, as Deut 10:17-19 points out. And this is why God's Law demand that the nations' fields should *not* be gleaned, i.e. to allow those who are poor (such as the orphans, widows and foreigners) to be able to get food by gleaning the fields (Lev 19:10; Deut 24:19-22). And, there were also certain tithes that God commanded be used to help the orphans, widows and foreigners too (Deut 14:28-29, Deut 26:12-13). But, of course, today these Laws have been grossly perverted or neglected completely; for many governments tax people to supposedly feed the 'poor' when many are *not really* poor, but simply *lazy*. And governments also tax *way beyond* what God's tithes for the poor call for *and* misuse (and/or steal) much of it too! Additionally, it should also be understood that 'gleaning' was *hard* work! So, even those who were poor (aside from the tithes) still had *to work* to eat, which is still the way God expects it to be (2 Thess 3:10), unless they are truly handicapped (or sick) in which their family (or fellow citizens) should *willingly* help them out (Luke 6:35; 1 Tim 5:16; James 1:27). But, the point to our study is that our Heavenly Father *promised* to protect, and care for, those who were unable to do so for themselves, *including* slaves, hired servants, and those who fell on hard times. And He also expects those who have more than enough money to sustain themselves, and their family, to help those who are less fortunate (Deut 15:7-8; Ps 37:26, 112:5; Prov 19:17; 1 Tim 6:18). And no one was supposed to oppress others regardless of their race, gender, nationality, or otherwise. And *all* these things *are* also a part of God's Laws (ex: Ex 22:21-24; Lev 25:14-17; Deut 23:15-16, 24:14-15, etc.) to which the prophets also reiterate (Jer 7:6-7; Zech 7:9-10; Mal 3:5, etc.). And that's why David so rightly wrote, "*The LORD executeth righteousness, and judgment, for **all** that are oppressed*" (Ps 103:6). And thus, these are more ways He "*keepeth the truth forever*".

Yet, this 9th verse also tells us another way He does so, i.e. "***the way of the wicked he turneth upside down***". Now, the word '**way**' here simply means ***a road*** (as trodden) but, figuratively, it can also mean ***a course of life*** or ***mode of action*** (#1870). So, the 'way' is the road we *metaphorically* 'walk', or the 'course of life' we take, i.e. it is the 'way' we live our life - either to serve our 'self' (sin, the lusts of the flesh) or our Heavenly Father (the way of righteousness). And the word '**wicked**' here means ***a morally wrong*** or, an (actively) ***bad person*** (#7563). And this comes from a prim root that means ***to be*** (do, or declare) ***wrong*** and, by implication, ***to disturb*** or ***violate*** (#7561). And that's why the *Companion Bible* (apx 44 x) states this word refers to *the activity of the impious, ungodly* and/or *robbers*, i.e. the 'lawless' people who don't care (at all) about obeying God's Laws (Word)! And, it is *their* 'way'' (i.e. their evil course of life and/or mode of action) that He will "**turneth upside down**", which simply means ***to wrest*** (#5791), which means *to pull, force, or move by violent wringing or twisting movements*. In other words, our Heavenly Father will ***ruin***, or ***destroy***, their wicked ways (course of life or mode of action) and, He does so by fighting *against* them!

As David pointed out in Ps 35:1, our Heavenly Father does 'plead the cause' of those who serve Him by *fighting against* those who fight against (and oppress) His *loyal* servants! And, another example of this can be found in the prophets, when our Heavenly Father promised king Zedekiah (who consistently *refused* to obey Him), "*I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath*" (Jer 21:5). And, Zedekiah did find out what it means when the Lord (YHVH) Almighty God fights against someone; for he saw his own sons **killed** right before his *own* eyes were *plucked out* and he was taken away captive (in chains) to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7)! And Egypt also found out what it means when the Lord (YHVH) fights against you… ten (eleven really) times (i.e. when He freed Israel from Egyptian bondage)! And, this IS a righteous thing for Him to do (2 Thess 1:6), which is why He will fight against Satan, his fallen angels, and all others who align with them during the 'great tribulation' (2 Thess 1:6-10; Zech 14:3-5; Rev 16, 19, etc.). And what this all boils down to is that, even though it may *seem* like the wicked are 'getting ahead' in life, that's *not* really true. As the Scriptures tell us (Ps 2:4, 37:13; Prov 1:26), our Heavenly Father *sees* all that's going on and merely 'laughs' (scoffs) at them because He *knows* that "*their day is coming*", i.e. their day *of judgment* is coming! So, while He *does* try to get the wicked to repent for their sins, if they refuse, He allows them to 'dig their own grave'! And our Heavenly Father scoffs at them *because* they are so stupid, they *don't realize* their wickedness is going to cause *utter destruction* to come *upon them* (Prov 1:22-32). And this too, is how the Lord (YHVH) "*keepeth the truth forever*" …

Psalm 146
10 The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.

So, after explaining that the Lord (YHVH) 'preserveth' (guards, protects and cares for) the foreigners, fatherless (orphans), and widows – all the while fighting against (and destroying) the wicked ways of the ungodly - the Psalmist tells us one more way He "*keepth the truth forever*". And truly, this is most glorious of them all! For, when this verse is fulfilled, all the other points the Psalmist made (in verses 6-9) will be *perfectly* fulfilled. In other words, there won't be any delays in 'justice' for those who are oppressed when Jesus Christ returns. For indeed, He **will** reign *forever* (which is what 'unto all generations' means) with His righteous government! And that's because, everyone will *know* that Lord (YHVH) is the *Supreme* God (#430) over all of His Creation *because* Jesus Christ **will be** the King of kings, and Lord of lords *forevermore* (Rev 17:14, 19:16). So, all of the *false* gods (Isa 14:12-17; Ezek 28:16-19; Rev 10:1-3, 7-10), and idols (Isa 2:17-22) *will be exposed* as such (2 Thess 1:7-10, 2:8; Rev 19:11-21, etc.). And that truly, is a wonderful reason to "*Praise Ye the Lord*", i.e. *Hallelujah*!

16 ***The LORD is King for ever and ever****: the heathen are perished out of his land.*
17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:
18 To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, ***that the man of the earth may no more oppress****.*
Ps 10:16-18

7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.
8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.
9 ***The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.***
10 ***And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee:*** *for thou, LORD,* ***hast not forsaken them that seek thee.***
Ps 9:7-10

AMEN.