Part 2 – Peace Be Within Thee

In chapter 122, part 1, we learned that this is the *third* 'Song of Degrees' and was actually written by David. And, the subject/title of this Psalm is "***Deliverance, Blessing, and Peace in Zion***". And, this precious Psalm began by expressing the *great* excitement David had when he was able to go to the 'house of the Lord' and worship Him. And, Hezekiah included this Psalm (written by David) as one of 'his songs' he promised to the Lord, YHVH (Isa 38:20) *because* it fit so well with *his* situation and feelings. As the Scriptures reveal, the 'house of the Lord' was Hezekiah's constant care, desire and thought, i.e. it truly filled his heart. However, the reason *why* Hezekiah (and David) loved the 'house of the Lord' was because it *represented* God's (YHVH's) *presence*! And, while we are no longer to worship at a 'Temple' (John 4:23-2; Heb 10:4-10; Ps 40:6-8, etc.) we today should *still* love the *true* 'Temple' of the Lord (YHVH), which is Jesus Christ*, because* His flesh body truly is the 'house' of the Lord (John 1:1,14)! And we also learned that, when God's Holy Spirit dwells *within us*, we are *a part of* God's 'Temple' too (1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). That's why we should also *fervently* love other Christians (John 13:34-35, 15:12-13; 1 Peter 1:22). So, while Hezekiah (like David) was elated to go to the 'house of the Lord', because he wanted to *worship* Him there, today we worship the Lord (YHVH) *wherever we are* (John 4:23-24) by learning His Word, striving to obey it and praying to our Heavenly Father in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26).

And then we learned how Jerusalem was built specifically to be a city that was *joined as a unit*. For, when David took over the city (from the Jebusites), he built several ramparts (bridges made of rocks) that made it easier to get from one place to another; specifically, from one mountain to another. This not only made it easier to get around the city but, also made a strong defense for the city. And we also learned that this is a *beautiful* type for how Jesus Christ 'builds' the 'Body of Christ', which is His *eternal* government, and *will rule in Jerusalem*! So, our Heavenly Father knows how to build a government, Temple, and city that is strong, sturdy, and functions *perfectly together*, as a unified unit! And then we also learned *why* Jerusalem was built to be a strong, and united, city. The city needed to be a *safe* place for Israel to worship *and* easier to get around in, i.e. organized and efficient. And then we learned that David used a special name for the Lord (Yah, #3050) to express how the Lord (YHVH) IS our salvation. And, we also learned that, just as Israel 'went up' to the Temple of the Lord to worship Him there, when Jesus Christ returns, the tribes of Israel (yea, all faithful Christians) will 'go up' to 'Zion' (Jerusalem) yet again, just as they did in times past. For, Jesus Christ (and His holy angels) are *coming back to earth* (only one time) *to take over the earth* **and** *rule forevermore*! And that's why He will have His holy angles gather the 'elect', i.e. because He will gather them to Himself (in Jerusalem) so they can worship Him, *and* rule with Him, *forevermore*.

So, we learned (yet again) just *how* prophetical these Psalms truly are. And, so long as we remain faithful servants to Him, we too will be allowed to 'go up' to the 'house of the Lord' and worship our Lord, and Savior (Jesus Christ) when He returns. And not only that, we'll receive *eternal* life and be allowed to rule *with Him* forevermore! So, indeed there will be *great* deliverance, safety, blessings, and peace, for those who *remain faithful* to the true God (YHVH) and the true Jesus Christ. Yet, the Psalmist is not done speaking of the "Deliverance, blessing and peace in Zion" …

Psalm 122
5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

So, while David previously spoke of how the tribes of Israel 'went up' to Jerusalem, to worship the Lord (YHVH), we see him now speak of how Jerusalem was *also* the seat of Israel's government. The word '**for**' here is a primitive particle which indicates causal relations of all kinds, antecedent or consequent (#3588); so, it could also be rendered '***and***' here, because David is continuing to speak of *why* the tribes of Israel would 'go up' to Jerusalem. So, another reason Israel went up to Jerusalem is because there were 'set thrones of judgment'. The word '**set**' here means (in the context of this verse) ***to sit down as a judge*** (#3427) and the word '**thrones**' does mean ***a throne*** (#6378) while the word '**judgment**' means ***a verdict*** (favorable or unfavorable) ***pronounced judicially***, especially a ***sentence*** or ***formal decree*** (human or [participant's] divine law, individual or collective), *including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty*; and, abstractly, it also means ***justice***, including a participant's right or privilege (statutory or customary), or even a style (#4941*). And it comes from a prim root that means ***to judge***, i.e. ***pronounce sentence*** (for or against); and, by implication, can also mean ***to vindicate*** or ***punish***; and, by extension, also means ***to govern*** or (passively) even ***to litigate*** (literally or figuratively) (#8199*).

So, the essence of '**judgment**' means ***to set upright*** or ***erect*** - i.e. right the wrongs in society - by means of ***judgment***. And that's why God gave Israel HIS Laws, i.e. because they are *Divine* laws that *will* ensure justice, peace, and prosperity prevails in *any* nation that uses them! And Moses charged Israel to obey God's judgments (in the courtroom *and* in their daily lives by using 'good judgment', i.e. discernment, which His Laws teaches us) specifically because the judges were judging people *on behalf of the Lord* (YHVH) *Himself* (Deut 1:17). That's why they were *not* allowed to be partial when judging people. They were supposed to judge *in righteousness*, which means, *according to* God's Laws (Lev 19:15; Deut 16:19-20; 24:17, etc.). After all, our Heavenly Father is 'no respecter of persons', so He commands us to be that way too (Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, John 12:46-48, Col 3:24-25).

And then, David points out that the 'thrones' of judgment were 'of the house of David'. While the word '**house**' here does mean ***a house***, it also can refer to a *family* (as in this verse 5), a

building (as the Temple of the Lord, in verse 1) or even a *government* (Heb 3). So, the 'house of David' refers to how the Lord (YHVH) established David's throne and passed it along to his son, Solomon (2 Samuel 5:9; 1 Kings 2:11–12), who then passed it on to his son and so on… even to the days of Hezekiah. Yet, even after the southern kingdom of Israel was taken captive to the Babylonians, the 'house of David' (his lineage and ruling throne) *did not die out*. It was taken, via Jeremiah, to the 'lost tribes' in Europe, where Zedekiah's daughters married into the royal lineage of David. Thus, David's throne continues *to this very day* via the royal lineages in Europe, even that of Great Britain. And this is important to understand because God *promised* that David's 'throne' *and* 'house' (lineage) would continue on *until* the Messiah (Jesus Christ) returned to rule, from Jerusalem, *forevermore* (2 Sam 7).

But, the point to our study is that David is simply speaking of how Jerusalem was *not only* the center of worship for Israel, but *also* the center of the government, i.e. the capital city, where Israel *went for judgment*. Further, as the *Companion Bible* points out, the word 'thrones' (as in the 'thrones of the house of David) is plural, which means it's actually referring to the *great* throne which Jesus Christ *will rule from* when He returns. So, here (in vs 5) David is truly referring to how the 'throne of David' would *continue on* to be the judgment for Israel *forever* via Jesus Christ. Thus, the many Scriptures that prophesied of the coming of a descendant of David, who would establish a permanent rule of perfect righteousness (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:44; Psalm 110:1-2, etc.) *will be* fulfilled by Jesus Christ who will, one day, reign over the world *in person* (Revelation 20:4). So, here again, we see just how *prophetical* this precious Psalm is!

Psalm 122
6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

So now, after speaking of how Israel went up to Jerusalem for worship, and for judgment, David calls for prayer for Jerusalem to be a city of peace. Indeed, the very meaning of **Jerusalem** is ***founded peaceful***, i.e. the ***foundation of peace*** (#3389)! And, during the reign of David, Jerusalem *did* have peace. However, that didn't come without a cost, because Israel *had to fight* aggressive nations in order to obtain peace in Jerusalem, and the country of Israel as a whole. So, this is likely *why* David prayed (requested #7592) for peace; for he well knew *the price of peace* often costs human lives, even when the good Lord (YHVH) was blessing their wars. The word '**peace**' here is a Hebrew word you're likely familiar with, i.e. ***shalowm*** (also spelled as *shalom*, #7965) and means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; and it can also mean (abstractly) ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace***. So, David prayed for peace, safety and prosperity to come to Jerusalem. And then he also prayed that all those that loved Jerusalem would prosper. The word '**love**' here means ***to have affection for*** (#157) and the word '**prosper**' means ***to be tranquil***, i.e. ***secure*** or ***successful*** (#7951). So, all together, David asked for peace and safely

over the city *and* for all those who worshiped the Lord, YHVH (Ps 97:10). And he was likely still thinking of those of Israel (and other nation) who travelled to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (YHVH) during the great feast days (De u t16:16). Therefore, we can see why Hezekiah added this to the 'Songs of Degrees"; for he too wanted peace for Jerusalem!

However, since the time Jerusalem was founded, the city has known relatively little peace. While David's reign was mostly peaceful, there was still a civil war due to Absalom's rebellion. And, while the first part of Solomon's reign was very peaceful, his idolatry set Israel up for many troubles after his death. In fact, the nation actually split apart, into two nations, after he died (1 Kings 11-12). And since then, hostile nations have *repeatedly* attacked Jerusalem throughout history; and conflicts continue *to this very day*. And even when the Messiah *did* come (Jesus' First Advent) Jerusalem *still* didn't have peace *because* they rejected (and killed) Him (Matthew 20:18; 23:37–39). But, someday, Jerusalem **will** experience lasting peace. Of course, this will happen only when *the* true Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ, Isa 9:6) returns to earth and *takes over* as King of Kings and Lord of Lords *forever* (Rev 19:16). Gabriel's announcement to Mary, that she would give birth to the Messiah, included a prophecy that Jesus would occupy the throne of David and reign *forever* over the house of Jacob (Luke 1:32–33). So, when Jesus Christ returns, and defeats all His enemies (Revelation 19:11-16), He **will** establish a thousand-year reign on earth (Revelation 20:4). And this will give way only to His rule in the New Jerusalem, which will last for **all** of eternity, i.e. forevermore (Revelation 21:1-4)!

However, even before that time, those who love what Jerusalem *represents* (i.e. peace by the *true* Jesus Christ reigning) will have peace [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/543]. As Jesus Christ said, "*Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you**: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*" (John 14:27). So, when we have the Holy Spirit within us, we have no reason to be troubled, or afraid! For we know that the troubles of this world (even in Jerusalem) are all a part of God's plan of salvation (Matt 24:6-14; Mark 13:7-13). And, as Paul so rightly wrote, "*the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*" (Rom 8:18). In other words, the hard times we must endure in this life, is nothing *compared to* the blessings of *eternal* life and getting to rule *with* Jesus Christ when He returns! And so, as long as we *continue* to serve Jesus Christ *faithfully*, despite the troubles in the world, we'll *always* have peace of mind from His Holy Spirit within us, which helps us endure the hard times *until* our 'redemption' comes (Rom 8:23). As Isaiah so befittingly wrote, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: because **he trusteth in thee**. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for **in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength***" (Isa 26:3-4)!

Psalm 122
7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

So, David *continues* to pray for peace in Jerusalem. The word '**peace**' here is (again) the Hebrew word ***shalowm*** (also spelled as *shalom*, #7965) which means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; and it can also mean (abstractly) ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace***. And then the word '**walls**' can mean ***an army*** but, in the context of this verse, means an ***intrenchment*** (2426). So, we can see why the translators rendered it as 'walls'. And then the word '**prosperity**' actually means ***security*** (#7962) while '**palaces**' means ***a citadel***, from its height (#759). So, David is likely referring to the strong holds (watch towers) that were upon the walls guarding Jerusalem. And, back in those days (and in some parts of the world today even), walls and watch towers were primary defensive measures. So, for these to remain intact would indeed secure peace and prosperity (safety) for Jerusalem. That's why Hezekiah worked so hard to repair the broken walls, and watch towers, *before* the Assryians came to besiege the city (1 Kings 18; 2 Chron 32). So again, we can see why Hezekiah included this song in with his promised 'Song of Degrees' (Isa 38:20).

Yet, we also know that this kind of peace, and safety, *won't* come true 'Prince of peace' (Isa 9:6) returns, i.e. Jesus Christ. For, in the prophetical sense, it is the Lord (YHVH) Himself that will be a 'wall of fire' round about Jerusalem, as well as her 'glory' (Zech 2:5). However, there is one coming *before* the true Christ (Jesus) returns who *will* promise peace and safety! And this is none other than the 'antichrist', who is Satan himself, i.e. the Devil, Serpent and Dragon (Rev 12:9, 20:2) [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345]. As Dan 11:21 warns us, "*he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries*". And this is because he (Satan) will 'heal' the 'deadly wound' to the governmental 'beast' system that is soon to arise in the world (Rev 12-13). And, along with many 'great wonders' he will do, he will be able to deceive the world into allowing him to rule the *entire* earth; and he will even deceive *most everyone* on the earth *into worshipping him* as well (Rev 13:12-14)! But truly, this will be a *false* peace, and a *false* security because, what the world will be receiving is *slavery*, not peace! That's why Paul warned us that, "*when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape*" (1 Thess 5:3). That 'sudden destruction' not only comes from the slavery that Satan will bring upon those who worship him, and accept his 'mark', but also the destruction that will come upon the world when the *true* Jesus Christ returns to pour out God's 'cup of wrath' (Rev 14:8-11; 16, etc.).

So, that's why we must be aware of the coming apostasy that Scriptures warn us of, (especially Paul, in 2 Thess 2) which truly is *well underway*, as the three-part study on **Apostasy** explains very clearly [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499]. Therefore, while David (and Hezekiah) prayed for peace, and security, in Jerusalem (Israel's capital) – and many still do, to this very day – we've got to remember that *true* peace will absolute *not* come until the Second Advent of Jesus

Christ. And, there's also a *great* deception that *absolutely* **must** (and will) come *before* true peace, and safety, can come to Jerusalem, let alone the world.

Psalm 122
8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

And David *continues* to pray for peace. The word '**brethren**' here means ***a brother*** and, is used in the *widest sense* of literal relationship *and* metaphorical affinity or resemblance (#251). And the word '**companions**' means ***an associate*** (#7453). And then the word '**peace**' is (yet again) ***shalowm*** (also spelled as *shalom*, #7965) which means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; and it can also mean (abstractly) ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace***. Naturally, prayers for safety of the city would *also imply* requests for protection over those who lived there, and who would be travelling there to worship at the 'house of the Lord'. So, David is essentially praying for his family, friends and others in the nation, who were coming to Jerusalem, to 'go up' to the 'house of the Lord' to worship Him (vs 1). And truly, it *is* good to pray for the well-being of others who love the Lord (YHVH). Jesus commanded His disciples to imitate His love by loving fellow believers (John 15:12). His example was that of self-sacrificing and selfless love because He sacrificed His own life *for us* on the cross [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344], and there truly is *no greater love than that* (John 15:13); that's why John said that "*we love him, because* ***he first loved us***" (1 John 4:19).

In other words, we can only learn to love the Lord (YHVH), and Jesus Christ, *by learning what love is* from His actions. And Jesus Christ (who is the Living Word, John 1:1,14) taught us *also* how to love others. Moreover, it is also a mark of *genuine* love to pray for our fellow Christians. Jesus' prayer in John 17 gives us an *excellent* example of this, as do many of the apostle's prayers too. For example, when Peter was in prison awaiting execution, the church offered "earnest prayer" for him (Acts 12:5). Philippians 1:9 reports that Paul prayed for the Philippians. Further, in 1 Thess 5:25 he asks the Thessalonian believers to pray for him; and in 2 Thess 1:11 he writes, "*we always pray for you*". In fact, this is even part of the Gospel armor, as Eph 6:18 tells us that we should be "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*"!

Psalm 122
9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

So, while David has been praying for peace in Jerusalem, and those who travel there, he now turns his attention to the 'house of the Lord' which (as we learned in verse 1) simply refers to the Temple of the Lord (YHVH). Now, the word '**because**' means several things; but, in the context of this verse, it means ***on account of*** (as a motive or an aim) (#4616). And then the word '**Lord**'

here is God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946] which means (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068). So, His name *reveals* that our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is why He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). Further, David also uses a 'title' of the Lord (YHVH), which is rendered as '**God**' but, in the Hebrew, it is ***'Elohiym*** (#430) - which means ***the Supreme God***, who is our ***Creator***. '*Elohiym* (also spelled as '*Elohim* at times) is thus, 'God the Creator', *putting His omnipotence* ('*El*, #410) *into operation*. It's first occurrence (Gen 1:1) connects it with creation, and gives it its essential meaning as 'the Creator'. It indicates His relation to mankind *as His creatures* (in contrast with Yehovah [#3068], which indicates a *convent relationship*). So, David is not only addressing our Heavenly Father by His Sacred, and covenantal name (Yehovah #3068, i.e. YHVH), he's also addressing Him with the 'title' of ***'Elohiym*** (#430), which shows he's speaking of our Heavenly Father's *eternality* (#3068) and His *supreme power* (omnipotence) as the Creator of all things, *even* our own soul (Rev 4:11; Ezek 18:4).

And then the word '**seek**' means ***to search out***, by any method, *specifically* in worship or prayer. And, by implication, it can also mean ***to strive after*** (#1245). And the word '**good**' here means ***good*** (as an adjective) *in the widest sense*; yet it can also be used likewise as a noun, as in ***a good thing, a good man or woman; the good, goods or good things, good men or women***, or also as an adverb, i.e. ***well*** (#2896). So, in the context of this verse, David is saying that, *on account of* the 'house of the Lord our God' (i.e. God's Temple) he would 'seek thy good'. In other words, David not only wanted peace in Jerusalem for the sake of the city, and the people who live (and came to worship) there, but *also* for the 'house of the Lord' *itself* because that was where the Lord (YHVH) 'dwelt', i.e. it was *symbolic for God's presence* because, at times past, that's where He manifested Himself to Moses (and others) at (Ex 19:9, 24:16-18, 33:10-11, 34:5, 40:34-38, Deut 31:15;1 Kings 8:10-11).

So, David was essentially wanting peace, and safety, to be in Jerusalem for the sake of all those who worshiped the Lord (YHVH) and even for the sake of the Lord (YHVH) Himself! For it makes our Heavenly Father *happy* when His children humbly worship Him *and* when they can do so in peace and safety. But, even though we're still living in a corrupted world, ruled by very wicked people, *we can still have peace today* – wherever we are in the world! And that's because we don't need a physical building (Temple) to worship God at *because* we are not to offer blood sacrifices to Him. What He *really* wants from us [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/952] is our *sincere* love and obedience to Him, not blood sacrifices [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1400]. And further, we should *never* forget that, one day, there *will* be peace in the world. And that day is at the return of the *true* Jesus Christ, of course! So, in this sense, this verse is (like many others) prophetically speaking of the return of Jesus Christ, when He will deliver us from all the

wicked ones on earth and bring true peace, safety and blessings (prosperity) to those who love and fear Him…

*20 Now **the God of peace**, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*
*21 **Make you perfect in every good work to do his will**, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, **through Jesus Christ**; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
Heb 13:20-21

*23 And **the very God of peace** sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
*24 **Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.***
1 Thess 5:14-24

*Now **the God of peace** be with you all. Amen.*
Rom 15:33

AMEN.