Part 3 – Freedom and Guidance from the Lord

In part 2 we learned some of the *reasons* that Yehovah is the Eternal God (#3068), the Supreme God, who is our Creator (‘Elohiym, #430), and the *only true* Sovereign Ruler over all the earth (‘Adown, #113). It is because Yehovah (i.e. YHVH) *alone* who does ‘great wonders’, which means things that are so *great*, and so *difficult*, and so *wonderful* that they *distinguish* Him *from all others* called ‘god’. Yet, despite this, His mercy (kindness, #2617) still endures forever (always and forever, #5769) to those who fear, love and obey Him! And then we learned of some of the ‘great wonders’ Yehovah has done, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called ‘god’. And the first ‘great wonder’ is that He has ‘made the heavens’, which simply means *the sky*. Yet, that includes what we call ‘*outer space*’, as well as the *invisible dimension* we cannot see (2 Kings 6:15-17). So, it was Yehovah, the Supreme God, our Creator who made the heavens, as Genesis chapter 1 documents. And He did so ‘*by wisdom’*, which means by His *intelligence*, which is far superior to anyone else’s because He is the Creator of all things. In the book of Proverbs (Prov 8:22-31, 3:29), Solomon explains (by writing as though ‘wisdom’ was ‘speaking’) how wisdom has *always* been one of Yehovah’s *Divine characteristics*. And that’s *why* the Lord (YHVH) *used* wisdom to create *all* things! So, God’s wisdom is *very* powerful yet, also *profoundly* creative! However, God’s wisdom is *always* good, i.e. righteous (James 3:13-18).

And then we learned that *another* one of the ‘great wonders’ Yehovah has done (which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called ‘god’) is that He has ‘*stretched out the earth above the waters*”. And this simply means that, after the *first* earth age was *totally* destroyed with water, (by Yehovah - due to Satan’s rebellion, as Gen 1:2 and 2 Pt 3:5-6 explain) the Lord (YHVH) caused the earth to *expand above* the waters; which is why we now have seas verses dry land we call the continents. Yet, another ‘great wonder’ Yehovah has done (which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called ‘god’) was that He made the ‘great lights’, i.e. the sun, moon and the stars, as it is written in Gen 1:14-18. And Genesis 1 also tells us He did so, not only to “*divide the light from the darkness*” but they are also “*for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years*”. Further, these great lights not only declare God’s glory, they also ‘*uttereth speech*’ and ‘*sheweth knowledge’* (Ps 19)! And the fact that the Lord (YHVH) has *specifically* commissioned the sun to ‘rule’ by day’ and the moon and stars to ‘rule’ by night teaches us an important *spiritual* lesson. For the Scriptures tell us that L*ight is likened to truth* and *darkness is likened to lies*. And God has *separated* the two *through His Son*, Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God (John 1). And that’s why those who know the truth (God’s Word, John 17:17) are ‘*children of the day*’ and ‘*children of the light*’ (1 Thess 5:1-9).

So, these ‘great wonders’ that Yehovah (alone) has done (made), truly are good reasons to give Him ‘thanks’ (praise, worship and reverence). For, not only are they awesome feats (that *no one else* can do), but they are *also* ‘signs’ that tell **us** the ‘seasons’ (Gen 1:14) we are living in *today*! For knowing *what lies ahead* helps us to *prepare for it*, so we are *not* deceived by “*that old*

serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, ***which deceiveth the whole world***" when he's cast out of heaven, to the earth, with is fallen angels (Rev 12:9)! After all, when Satan (the antichrist) is on earth, he too will be doing 'great wonders' (Rev 13:13) that will deceive *most all* of the earth (Rev 13:14). And that's why it behooves us to learn *who* the *true* God (Yehovah, #3068) really is, i.e. the *Supreme* God, our *Creator* ('Elohyim, #430) and the *only* Sovereign Ruler on earth (Adown, #113). For, if we cannot discern between Yehovah and Satan himself… then we're going to be *very* ashamed when the *true* Jesus Christ returns, as He warned us of in Mth 7:21-24). Yet, the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) is not (by far) done speaking of the Lord's (YHVH) 'great wonders' that separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'…

Psalm 136
10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:

So again, this is yet *another* one of the 'great wonders' Yehovah has done, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. And this is, of course, a reference to the *Tenth* Plague He brought upon the Egyptians (Ex 12:29) in order to get them to let Israel go free. And, one of the most amazing feats about this plague was the Lord's (YHVH) ability to *distinguish* between even the firstborn of the *cattle*! For, not only the firstborn (male) of all Egyptians was killed (regardless of their status), but *also* the firstborn of the cattle! And this happened *in one night*! And that's why "*there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead*" (Ex 12:30). And, not surprisingly, this was the final 'straw' that caused the Egyptians to free Israel. However, another amazing part of this miracle was that *none* of Israel's firstborn male children, *nor* cattle, were smitten! And that's because they all had the '*blood of the lamb*' upon their doorposts, just as Moses (on behalf of the Lord, YHVH) commanded them (Ex 12:28). Of course, this is *incredibly* significant for how we *must* have the *spiritual* 'blood' of the 'lamb' (Jesus Christ) – which is *the truth*, i.e. the Holy Spirit of God *within us* (John 6:63) – upon the 'doorposts' of our *heart and mind* IF we want the 'death angel' to pass *over us*. And, spiritually speaking, that 'death angel' is most certainly Satan himself. So, if we want to avoid *spiritual* death, we *must* have the truth (God's Word and Holy Spirit) in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts). And the '*blood of the Lamb*' will also protect us from *spiritual* deception, which is actually what causes our spiritual death (at the end of the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15). So, this 'great wonder' also has an important *spiritual* lesson for us as well.

Psalm 136
11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And this is yet *another* one of the 'great wonders' Yehovah has done, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. For He *did* bring Israel out of Egypt (Ex 13) and in quite a *miraculous* way. As it is written, "*And the LORD went before them by day* ***in a pillar of***

***a cloud**, to lead them the way; and by night **in a pillar of fire**, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people*" (Ex 13:21-22). So, the Lord (YHVH) Himself literally led Israel out of Egypt via a pillar of a cloud by day *and* a pillar of fire by night. And that meant Israel could travel by day, or by night! Further, the cloud (by day) not only led them, but also *protected* them from the hot sun. And the pillar of fire not only led them, but also protected them from any dangerous animals and people. It also would have helped them to stay warm during the cool nights in the wilderness (desert).

Further, Ex 14:19-28 also records how the Lord (YHVH) protected Israel with the pillar of cloud. For, when Israel was 'trapped' by the Red Sea, when the Egyptian army was coming near to them, the Lord (YHVH) removed His cloud (that formerly *led* them) and went *behind* them. And He also caused His cloud to be *dark* to the Egyptians but, *light* to the children of Israel! Further yet, verses 24-25 tells us that, "*and it came to pass, that in the morning watch **the LORD looked unto the host** of the Egyptians **through the pillar of fire and of the cloud**, and troubled the host of the Egyptians. And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians*". So, the Lord (YHVH) was literally IN the cloud fighting for Israel, to protect them from the mighty Egyptian army! If you'd like to learn *how* the Lord (YHVH) was **in** the cloud, check out: **You Will See Clouds and Wheels** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392]. So, there were actually several 'great wonders' the Lord (YHVH) did when He brought Israel out of Egypt. And indeed, they truly *do* show that "*His mercy endureth forever*"…

Psalm 136
12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Now the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) points out how the Lord (YHVH) delivering Israel from Egypt was done with a 'strong hand' and a 'stretched out arm'. And this points out *how* the 'great wonders' (Ps 136:4) were done. The word '**strong**' does mean ***strong*** (#2389) but the prim root it comes from means (figuratively) to be ***courageous***, ***strengthen*** and even to ***help*** (#2388). And the word '**hand**' does mean ***a hand*** but, it refers to the *open* hand, which indicates ***power*** (#3027). And then the words '**stretched out**' means ***to stretch,*** or ***spread out*** (#5186) while the word '**arm**' does mean ***the arm***, *as stretched out*. But, it can also mean (figuratively) ***force*** (#2220). So, the point is that: only the Lord (YHVH) Himself – who is our Creator – could have done the things He did to free the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. For no one can *fully* control His creation *but Him*. And indeed, it took *great* power to do so, which is why the Psalmist points out He used a 'strong hand' and a 'stretched out arm', implying that it took an *incredible* amount of power (force) to be able to perform the plages, let alone at the *exact* time (and way) He promised to do so (ex: Ex 8:9-13). And this is why the Lord (YHVH) told Moses to take his rod, and use it in various ways, while the Lord (YHVH) Himself performed the

miracles that plagued Egypt (Ex 7:9-10, 19-20, 8:5-6, 16-17, 9:23-24, 10:13-14, Ex 14:21). But Moses' (and Aaron's) 'rod' was merely *symbolic* of the 'Angel of the Lord' **who *was the one* doing the miracles** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485], even at the crossing of the Red Sea (Ex 14:16). So, what this verse is pointing out that, it took a 'strong hand' and a 'stretched out arm' *in order to* perform the plages that the Lord (YHVH) brought upon Egypt. And *only* our Creator (YHVH) has the power to do those things!

And this is, yet again, another point that proves Yehovah is far greater than, and above all, others called 'god' (Ps 135:5). As Ps 118:16 so well said, "*The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly*"! But, of course, this is a 'type' of what is soon to come. For the Lord (YHVH) will *again* free His people (faithful Christians) from the bondage to Satan and his wicked 'beast' governing system (Isa 40:9-11, Zech 14, Rev 19, etc.). That's why the two witnesses (Rev 11; Zech 4) will "*have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will*". And, even after that, the Lord (YHVH) will pour out His 'cup of wrath' (the vials of Rev 16). And then, when Jesus Christ returns, He will smite His enemies with the *sharp* sword (Heb 4:12) that comes out *of His mouth* (Isa 66:15-16; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:16)!

Psalm 136
13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:
15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

And these are yet *more* 'great wonders' Yehovah has done, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. For, not only did the Lord (YHVH) divide the Red Sea (literally, Ex 14:21), but He *also* cause Israel to pass through it *on dry land* (Ex 14:22). And then, once Israel was safely crossed over, He lifted His cloud (that was protecting Israel from the Egyptians) and allowed the Egyptian army to foolishly run into the Red Sea… only to then cause their chariot wheels to get stuck, so they began to run like a bunch of chickens with their heads cut off! Yet, it was to no avail, for He caused the sea to come *crashing down* upon them all (Ex 14:23-28. And, those who were not immediately killed from the force of the waves were drowned. And, as it is written, "…*there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land* ***in the midst of*** *the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left*" (Ex 14:28-29). And these three mighty miracles were so impressive to Israel, that this was one of the few times Israel actually believed in the Lord (YHVH), as it is written, "*And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD,* ***and*** *believed the LORD,* ***and*** *his servant Moses*" (Ex 14:31). And this is why they later sang a beautiful song to praise Him for the mighty deliverance. And in that we see they sang, "***Thy right hand****, O LORD, is become glorious* ***in power****: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy*" (Ex 15:6). And also, "***Who is***

***like unto thee**, O LORD, <u>among the gods</u>? **who is like thee**, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, <u>doing wonders</u>? Thou **stretchedst out thy right hand**, the earth swallowed them*" (Ex 15:11-12). If only their faith had continued! But, while it did not, it's still a good example of how we *must remember* the many 'great wonders' the Lord (YHVH) has done <u>in the past</u> - so that our faith *does not shake* during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21) that is soon to come!

Psalm 136
16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Now, this is yet *another* 'great wonder' Yehovah did, which separates, and distinguishes, Him *from all others* called 'god'. For, as we learned previously, the Lord (YHVH) led Israel out of Egypt via a pillar of cloud (by day) and a pillar of fire (by night) (Ex 13:21-22). *And*, He did <u>not</u> take that pillar of cloud, or fire, away from them *the entire time* they were travelling in the wilderness (Ex 40:36-38; Num 9:15-23). But, aside from this, He also provided food and water for them (Ex 16; Num 11; Ps 105:40), which was really important in a wilderness (even desert, #4057). So, these were *also* 'great wonders' He did for Israel when they were travelling in the wilderness. Ps 78:24-25 even tells us this 'manna' was angels food, i.e. 'corn from heaven'! So, it was indeed a 'great wonder' that no one else (in heaven, or on earth) could have done. And, the *way* He provided water for them (*twice* miraculously opening up a rock in the wilderness, Ex 17; Num 20) was *another* 'great wonder' that proves He (alone) is the Supreme God over all the earth (and in heaven). Yet, of course, it <u>also</u> proves that "*His mercy endureth forever*"! For, even though Israel was often rebellious during their wanderings in the wilderness, the Lord (YHVH) *still* did <u>not</u> take that protective 'cloud', or 'pillar of light' away from them!

Now, the word '**led**' here (in vs 16) not only means ***to walk*** but, also ***to carry*** (#3212). So, even though Israel had to, literally, walk through the wilderness, the fact that the Lord (YHVH) *literally* led, provided for, and protected them the *entire* time certainly was, in a sense, as though He was *carrying* them. In fact, the word 'carry' simply means *to move* (a person or thing) <u>*while holding or supporting*</u>… indeed, that is *exactly* what the Lord (YHVH) did for Israel while they travelled through the wilderness. And that's why the Lord (YHVH) said, "*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and <u>how **I bare** you on eagles' wings</u>, and brought you unto myself*" (Ex 19:4). So, there was nothing that Israel lacked as they travelled through the wilderness. And even though they had to stay there for forty years (due to their rebellions, Num1 4), they never lacked food, water, or protection (*when* they obeyed Him). And, not even their clothes (or shoes) wore out through those *four* decades (Deut 29:5)! And this too is yet another 'type' for us living today (1 Cor 10:11). For, just as the Lord (YHVH) took care of Israel the *entire* forty years, so too will He do for us… *so long as* we earnestly *obey* Him! Further, when Israel began to rebel, He *had* to chasten them. And, because His chastisements are *for our good* (Deut 8:5), *so too* will He do for us (Heb 12). But, as long as we are <u>not</u> rebellious, and earnestly seek Him through His Word (so we know *how to obey* Him) then He will indeed 'carry' (provide for and protect) us through the

rest of our life in the flesh, which really is much like a wilderness. David even called it a "shadow of death" in Ps 23:4 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/256]. So, as long as we don't forsake the Lord (YHVH), He will *never* forsake us…

17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:
20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.
Isa 41:17-20

We'll pick this up in part 4…

AMEN.