Psalm Chapter 143 - Review

In chapter 143, part 1, we learned this is another Psalm of David and the subject/title of it is "***Prayer***". For, not only did David ask for deliverance from his enemies, but also for mercy, and instruction, from the Lord (YHVH). And, while we were (yet again) not told *when* this Psalm was written, it's likely *either* when David was fleeing from Saul (who was trying to kill him out of jealousy) or at the time Absalom led Israel to rebel against him. So, David began his prayer by asking the Lord (YHVH) to 'hear' (with attention) his 'prayer' (supplication) and to 'give ear' (listen) to his 'supplications' (earnest prayer) because he *knew* the Lord (YHVH) is *faithful to fulfil His promise* to hear (and help) those who *earnestly* seek Him (Deut 4:29-31). And then he asked that the Lord (YHVH) would <u>not</u> 'enter into judgment' with him, which simply means he was asking for God's mercy *because* <u>he knew</u> that "*by the deeds of the law there shall <u>no</u> flesh be justified in his sight*" (Rom 3:20), for we "*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Rom 3:23). So, just as we today earnestly ask God for forgiveness for our sins, *because* we believe in Jesus' atoning blood (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9: 12-15), *so too* was David doing in this Psalm (Rom 3:24)!

And then David began to explain *why* he needed the Lord's (YHVH) help *so much*. For he was being chased after by people who *hated* him. And apparently this pursual was *quite intense,* for he felt life his life had been 'stomped to the ground' and he was also having to 'dwell in darkness', which possibly refers to the cave he was hiding in. But, as David taught us in another Psalm, even when we're in physical darkness, our Heavenly Father *still* sees us (Ps 139:11-12). And that means He can *still* help us! And then David explained his *utter exhaustion* (spiritually and physically) from what was happening to him. So, as he did in the last Psalm (142), David has truly been 'pouring out his heart' to the Lord (YHVH), which is *exactly* what our Heavenly Father *wants us to do* when hard times come! As He said, through the prophet Isaiah, "*Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified*" (Isa 43:26). So, our Heavenly Father *wants* us to come to Him and speak freely*, and* honestly, with Him when hard times come. Not that He doesn't already know what's going on in our life, and in our own heart and mind (for He *does* know) but, He wants us to *communicate with Him* - to tell Him *why* we need help and <u>*why* we think we deserve it</u>. And, even if we don't deserve it, if we're willing to see our sins, repent for them, *and* change them (as David was, which vs 2 alluded to) then He's *very* willing to forgive us (as Isa 43:25 said). And that's why, after Jesus told us we should 'ask, seek and knock', when communicating with our Heavenly Father, He *will* give His Holy Spirit *to help us through* the hard times (Luke 11:13)!

And then, after 'pouring his heart out' to the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. explaining how exhausted, *and* overwhelmed, he was from being continually pursued by his enemies) David then began to do what we should ALL do during the hard times, i.e. David comforted himself *by remembering* the 'days of old' (time antiquity) which means *he remembered the history* of how God created *all*

things, as well the *mighty* miracles He has done in the past. And David thought *deeply* about these things because the Lord's (YHVH) past 'record' *reminds us* that He is *well able* to help us out of all our troubles. And also, the history of how He helped many others (who were in trouble) who loved Him, also *proves* He is able to do so *for us*. So, David remembered history, thought deeply about it, and *comforted himself* in the fact that our Heavenly Father's 'track record' *proves* He's able to help us. And this is something we should *never forget to do*. For today, we've got *even more* history (in the Bible) to study (and remember) than any of those men did. So, there's even more proof that *the wicked will be 'brought down' by their own wicked words and works* (as David well pointed out in Psalms 37). And that truly should comfort us when hard times come *and* help us to learn to *patiently* endure them.

In part 2 we learned *how* earnestly David sought the Lord (YHVH), for he continued to look to Him for help as earnestly as the ground does when it *desperately* needs water. And that's why David then asked the Lord (YHVH) to pay attention to his prayers and respond to him *quickly* - for he was not only exhausted (physically and spiritually) but also, *gravely* concerned his enemies would find, and most likely *kill* him, too. And David also pointed out that he did was not looking for help from any flesh person, nor from false gods or idols. Rather, he trusted in the *true* God (Yehovah) to save him from his aggressive perusers. And David also asked the Lord (YHVH) for guidance because he really didn't know what he should do. For he truly wanted to obey our Heavenly Father but, he was in such a terrible situation (people who hated him were pursuing him with the intent of killing him) he didn't know where to go or what to do. So, he wisely asked for the Lord (YHVH) to guide, and direct him; and was hoping his answer would come *very* soon (by the morning) for he was in a *very* precarious situation, i.e. he was being pursued by his *own* people! And then David again reminded the Lord (YHVH) that he looked to Him (only) for help **and** *trusted* the Lord (YHVH) *could* help him. And then he bluntly asked for deliverance from his enemies *and* reiterated he truly trusted in Him for protection.

And then David asked the Lord (YHVH) to *continue* to 'point him' (even chastening with the 'rod of correction, if need be, Prov 13:24, 23:13-14) in the *right* direction, i.e. "*into the land of uprightness*", which means to lead (guide) him on a level, straight, and just path. And this simply means David wanted to better learn to live his life according to God's righteous ways (Gal 5:22-23) and *not* according to the 'lusts of the flesh' (Gal 5:19-21). So, you could also say David was asking the Lord (YHVH) for help to live his life righteously. And he did so because he knew that's the only way he *could* receive the Lord's (YHVH) help! And this certainly is something we too should pray for. For if we keep our heart and mind *steadfastly on* God's Word, we *will* earnestly strive to obey it. And *that* is what 'opens' the 'gates of heaven' for us! So, if we allow (and ask) our Heavenly Father to teach us His ways, and will (and not be hard hearted, i.e. rebellious), then He *will* guide us to the 'land of uprightness', which is to say He'll teach, and guide, us how to live righteously. And 'righteousness' by God's standards *always* centers upon our *faith in*, and earnestly obedience to (trying sincerely), Him (Gal 3:6, etc.)!

And then David asked for the Lord (YHVH) to 'quicken' (revive) him '*for thy name's sake*', which simply means to glorify our Heavenly Father *because* it's within His righteous character to help those who love, fear and try (earnestly) to obey Him (Ex 22:22-24, 34:6-7; Ps 103:6, etc.). And David *was* earnestly trying to serve (obey) our Heavenly Father; and He promises to *always* help those who do so (Deut 4:29-31, etc.). And that's why David went on to ask "for thy righteousness' sake" that He would bring David's 'soul' (inner *and* outer man) out of trouble. So, because our Heavenly Father *always* does what is right, David asks that He would bring his soul out of trouble, i.e. preserve his life and given him strength to get through his troubles. So, David was *not* asking the Lord (YHVH) to help him *on account of* his righteousness. For, as he pointed out in verse 2, he *well knew* that we *all* fall short of God's righteousness and sin at times, even when we're trying not to (Rom 3:20-23). So, he wisely asks the Lord (YHVH) to help him because he *also well knew* that it is within His righteous character to show compassion to those who are being oppressed, which David certainly was! And this is certainly a very wise way to implore our Heavenly Father for help. For, if we remain humble to Him, and are willing to let Him teach, guide, and direct us in *how to live our life according to His Will and ways* (which are all righteous) then He is *always* faithful to help us out of our troubles. Yet, He's also faithful to teach us how to do what's right. And that truly is what will help us to avoid getting into many troubles in the first place *as well as* help us to often *avoid* the traps of the wicked ones. And, when we truly are being persecuted for no fault of our own (as David was here), our Heavenly Father is *also always* faithful to help us if we earnestly implore Him for help (*and trust in* Him) as David has been doing in this Psalm (and many others). And we know from the Biblical history that the Lord (YHVH) *did indeed* help David, which should give us *all the more confidence* He'll do so for us as well.

And then David asked the Lord (YHVH) to show him mercy (kindness) *by eradicating those who hate him*. And he also asks Him to "*destroy all them that afflict my soul*" because he was the Lord's (YHVH) servant (#5650), i.e. he did not serve false gods or idols. So, David did a good job at claiming God's promises in this Psalm 143 (as we should do too, Isa 43:26) - for our Heavenly Father *does* protect those who serve *Him* **because** they are trying *to obey* Him! And, we know from the history of David's life (recorded in the Bible) that our Heavenly Father *did* hear David's earnest prayer, here in this precious Psalm 143. For, whether he wrote this when Saul was pursuing him or, at the time of Absalom's rebellion, we know the Lord (YHVH) delivered him out of *all the hands of his enemies*, as Psalm 18 clearly documents. And, He also did so for *many others* who had faith in Him, such as Jesus Christ, the apostles, Paul and more (Heb 11). And that's why Paul warned us that, "*all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*" (vs 12) because "*evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived*" (vs 13). But, even so, we should "*continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them*" vs 14).

Therefore, even when *we* are persecuted for serving the Lord (YHVH/Jesus Christ) we should continue to obey God's Word *regardless* of how hard times get. For many people have a bad habit of becoming bitter when hard times come; and that often causes them to disobey God (which Psalms 37 warns us against). But, if we continue to seek the Lord (YHVH), and earnestly strive to obey Him, He will *always* help us through our troubles or give us a way out of them (1 Cor 10:13). And, in the end, *all* of ***our*** enemies ***will*** *be totally destroyed in the lake of fire* (Rev 20:10-15) ***never to exist again***. So, keep that in mind next time hard times come. The Lord (YHVH) won't always let the wicked ones rule the earth and 'their day' of judgment IS coming (Ps 37:13). As it is written, "*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished*" (2 Peter 2:9) …

3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.
4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.
5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.
6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. [prophesy for Rev 18 and 20:10-15]
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 9:3-10

5 My soul, ***wait thou only upon God****; for* ***my expectation is from him****.*
6 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.
7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
8 ***Trust in him at all times;*** *ye people,* ***pour out your heart before him****:* ***God is a refuge for us****.*
Ps 62:5-8

AMEN.