

Psalm 89 A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite

(Maskil - a call to reflect on the message and thereby gain wisdom¹)

1) *The LORD is good*

¹ I will sing about the mercy and steadfast love of the LORD forever, and I will stand up and tell all generations about His faithfulness. ² LORD, Your tender love and kindness will become more and more evident, and they will endure forever. Your faithfulness will be the basis of Your dealings with men.

³ God Himself has said,

“I have made an everlasting commitment to my chosen one, David, and I will not only cause his descendants to rule on the throne, ⁴ but his throne will last forever and culminate in the person of the Messiah, Jesus Christ².”

Now stop for a moment and ponder the truths I just shared with you. Isn't our LORD Jesus wonderful?

⁵ I said in response,

“LORD, the heavens themselves will praise Your wonderful works, and Your godly children will proclaim Your faithfulness. ⁶ It is only right that they should do so, because no man or heavenly being can compare favorably with such a wonderful and powerful God as You. ⁷ Born again men will fear You, and rightfully so, because You are simply awesome in every way and far superior to everyone around You.”

2) *The LORD is the powerful God*

⁸ O LORD of hosts, the mighty God, who is like You? No one else has faithfulness surrounding them like You.

⁹ You rule the raging sea, and at Your command it becomes calm;

¹⁰ You crushed Egypt³ and left it like a slain carcass;

You scattered Your enemies by Your mighty power;

¹¹ The heavens and the earth are Yours along with the world and all it contains;

¹² You created the north and the south;

¹³ Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon shout for joy at the mention of Your name;

You have strength far beyond human ability;

¹⁴ Your throne exists on the foundation of righteousness and justice; and everywhere You go You are always ready to bestow Your tender love and kindness accompanied by the truth if the occasion warrants.

3) Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD

¹⁵ LORD, happy is everyone who knows the sound of Your voice! They are the ones who go through life knowing that You are not only happy with them but You approve of them too. ¹⁶ They delight in Your name all day long, and ¹⁷ through the righteousness of Christ they are made sons of God. ¹⁸ Because we are His, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, is our defense. ¹⁹ There was a time when You spoke to Your godly ones of Israel and said that You were going to raise up a valiant man of Israel to be king and lead Your people. You said,

4) David is God's choice to rule Israel

²⁰ I have found a man to be king of Israel, and I have anointed him with oil. ²¹ By my power I will firmly establish him, and I will strengthen him to do the job. ²² His enemies will neither outwit him, nor will they get an upper hand so as to humble him. ²³ On the contrary, I will crush his adversaries as they advance, and I will strike down those who hate him. ²⁴ I will be faithful to him and pour out lots of my tender love and kindness upon him. As a result, his kingdom will become great. ²⁵ I will touch the sea and the rivers so that they will be favorable to him. ²⁶ He will pray to me and say,

‘You are my Father, You are my God, and You are the
One I trust for my salvation.’

²⁷ I will make him my firstborn son, and he shall be greater than the other kings of the earth in his day. ²⁸ I will extend my tender love and kindness to him for all time, and I will honor the commitment I made to him in the covenant. ²⁹ So, I will see that there is always one of his sons on the throne as long as they obey Me. ³⁰⁻³¹ But, if his sons abandon me and choose to disobey My Word, ³² then I will punish them severely. ³³ Yes, I will punish them, but I will not completely remove my tender love and kindness. I will not be deceptive with them because of my faithfulness. ³⁴ Regardless of what an individual son on the throne will do, I will not violate My covenant. I simply will not go back on My promise. ³⁵ After all, I have sworn by My holiness, and I will not lie to David. ³⁶⁻³⁷ His descendants will endure forever like the moon, culminating in the Messiah. It will happen as I said because I, the witness in the sky, have said it.

Now stop what you are doing and ponder the wisdom of the LORD
in choosing David as ruler over Israel. He certainly chose well.

5) LORD, why have You abandoned us?

Then I (David) said,

³⁸ LORD, at one time You were kind to me and promised to put me on the throne of Israel. You made that promise, but now You are angry with me. Where are You when I need You? ³⁹ It appears that You have made the covenant between You and me null and void, and You have thrown my position of leadership and my crown down to the

ground. ⁴⁰ You have caused evil men to destroy Jerusalem, and ⁴¹ everyone who passes by takes some of the possessions we left when we were forced to leave the city. ⁴² You have enabled our adversaries to become great, and all of them rejoice over their victory. Now they scorn us and treat us like we are worthless. ⁴³ You didn't want us to win, so during the battle You made our weapons ineffective. Therefore, we simply could not win. ⁴⁴ You removed me from the throne and caused my splendor to be thrown to the ground. ⁴⁵ You have worked circumstances so that I will die prematurely, and You have covered me with shame."

Folks, stop what you are doing, and ponder the dire circumstances I am being forced to endure. What would you do if you were in my sandals?

"⁴⁶ LORD, how long will You be angry with me and hide from me? ⁴⁷ Since a man's lifespan is so short, please rescue me from these troubles. If You don't, why have you caused me to experience a life of emptiness and worthlessness⁴⁷? ⁴⁸ Every man will go to the grave someday, and it is impossible for a man to deliver his soul from death by his own power. That's why I really need You to rescue me, and do it soon."

Now stop and ponder the things I have shared with You. Life is sometimes hard, but our only sure recourse is to fall at Jesus' feet and beg for mercy. This is what He desires.

"⁴⁹ LORD, in the past You swore in Your faithfulness You would bestow Your tender love and kindness upon me. Where is it now that I need it? ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹ Please see how my people and I are mocked by our enemies, and how I feel responsible for the fact that they must endure such shame."

⁵² Life is hard right now, but in spite of all this I still say, "Blessed be the LORD both now and forever! He is good, and He is always good. Amen and Amen."

¹ Peter A. Steveson, Psalms, © BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, USA, pg. 285

² In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used."

³ Peter A. Steveson, Psalms, © BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, USA, pg.346

⁴ Definition of "Vanity", www.dictionary.com/browse/vanity