

PSALM 89

Psalm 89 is considered the majestic "Covenant Psalm." The Messianic hope was deeply imbedded in the hearts of the Israelites. In a time of affliction, Israel's sad desolate state is at odds with the glorious hopes that God had kindled in the heart of the nation by the promise of its future greatness and its great king. The Psalmist here revels in these promises, in the majesty and faithfulness of Yahweh, and then pours forth his intense feeling of the great distance between these promises and the present circumstances of the nation. Who is the anointed one spoken of in verses 38-45 against whom God's wrath has been displayed? No name is given, and it is therefore fruitless to try to determine it with any accuracy. He was obviously a Davidic king, and Rehoboam is a good possibility, according to Delitzsch.

The psalm may be divided as follows: Verses 1-4, the Psalmist affirms his belief in the faithfulness of Yahweh regarding the covenant established with David; verses 5-14, he magnifies Yahweh for his power, justice, and mercy; verses 15-18, he sings of the happiness of the people who have Yahweh for their glory and defense; in 19-37 he rehearses the terms of the covenant with David with evident delight; in 38-51 he pours out his complaint and petition; and in the last verse he closes with a hearty benediction and double Amen.

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- 1 I will sing of the lovingkindness of YAHWEH forever;
to all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.
- 2 For I have said, "Lovingkindness will be built up forever;
in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."
- 3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant,
- 4 I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations." Selah

- 5 The heavens will praise Your wonders, O YAHWEH;
Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.
- 6 For who in the skies is comparable to YAHWEH?
Who among the sons of the mighty is like YAHWEH,
- 7 a God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all those who are around Him?
- 8 O YAHWEH God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty YAHWEH?
Your faithfulness also surrounds You.
- 9 You rule the swelling of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them.
- 10 You Yourself crushed Rahab like one who is slain;
You scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.
- 11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours;
the world and all it contains, You have founded them.

12 The north and the south, You have created them;
Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name.

13 You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted.

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
lovingkindness and truth go before You.

15 How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!
O YAHWEH, they walk in the light of Your countenance.

16 In Your name they rejoice all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted.

17 For You are the glory of their strength, and by Your favor our horn is exalted.

18 For our shield belongs to YAHWEH, and our king to the Holy One of Israel.

19 Once You spoke in vision to Your godly ones,
and said, "I have given help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

20 "I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him,
21 With whom My hand will be established; my arm also will strengthen him.

22 "The enemy will not deceive him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

23 "But I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him.

24 "My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him,
and in My name his horn will be exalted.

25 "I shall also set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

26 "He will cry to Me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

27 "I also shall make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

28 "My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever,
and My covenant shall be confirmed to him.

29 "So I will establish his descendants forever and his throne as the days of heaven.

30 "If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments,
31 if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments,
32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes.

33 "But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness.

34 "My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.

35 "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.

36 "His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me.

37 "It shall be established forever like the moon,
and the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah

38 But You have cast off and rejected,
You have been full of wrath against Your anointed.

39 You have spurned the covenant of Your servant;
You have profaned his crown in the dust.

40 You have broken down all his walls; You have brought his strongholds to ruin.

41 All who pass along the way plunder him; he has become a reproach to his neighbors.

42 You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries;
You have made all his enemies rejoice.
43 You also turn back the edge of his sword and have not made him stand in battle.
44 You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground.
45 You have shortened the days of his youth; You have covered him with shame. Selah

46 How long, O YAHWEH? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?
47 Remember what my span of life is;
for what vanity You have created all the sons of men!
48 What man can live and not see death?
Can he deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? Selah
49 Where are Your former lovingkindnesses, O Lord,
which You swore to David in Your faithfulness?
50 Remember, O Lord, the reproach of Your servants;
how I bear in my bosom *the reproach* of all the many peoples,
51 with which Your enemies have reproached, O YAHWEH,
with which they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed.

52 Blessed be YAHWEH forever! Amen and Amen.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your faithfulness to the house of David, and we look forward to that day when his descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, will take his rightful place upon David's throne. Until that day comes, enable us to follow in the Messiah's footsteps with all diligence and perseverance. Let us sow the precious seed of the gospel, engage in good works, live in obedience to the commandments, and seek your throne of grace in fervent prayer. And let us do all in such a manner that your great name will be glorified. We ask in the name of our Saviour, Messiah Jesus.. Amen.