

## Psalm 89 Last Part

Read Psalm 89

Have you given thought for the day when everything falls apart? What is the recipe of the believer? I know and can speak of so many within this Body of believers that have offered a testimony of what it is to love and trust Christ in times of great difficulty. This is such a wonderful and amazing thing to see – the reality of GOD’s grace and the faith to remain steadfast in hope. Our Pastor has taught me that one of the essential elements of being an elder is that we are to not only teach how to live pursuing holiness, but we are to teach how to suffer well and do both not only in word, but by example. I have seen the people of GOD here at Covenant of Peace struggle with the difficulties that are certain to come our way. Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us: [John 16:33 NASB] **33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."** Our Savior assures us that we will have tribulation in the earth, but He also assures His people that He has overcome the world and we have peace in Him. Being a Christian can be like a being a woman in labor. [John 16:20-22 NASB] **20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. 21 "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. 22 "Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one [will] take your joy away from you.** So, the question presses – Have you given thought for the day of great difficulty? What is the recipe for the day when everything falls apart?

In our day there are so many voices preaching a counterfeit “prosperity gospel”. I want to be clear, you do not hear such from the pulpit here! And, by GOD’s grace, may it never be. However, it is the message of our day and is one that appeals to the flesh. Therefore, we need to be reminded of how much the Word of GOD that can’t be true if the message of our day is true. Let me be of help – The Word of GOD is true and certain and that which to ignored is the false prosperity gospel! The Bible speaks much of warfare, conflict, striving to fight against sin, and uses phrases such as “thorns in the flesh”. Here we have one of those places, Psalm 89. This Psalm is so dear to me and I pray that it is so

for you. I haven't always struggled well, but I am praying that by GOD's grace that I will be able to – that I will look to Him and His means of Grace because He has overcome the world. I pray this for each of us. I do not want to discourage anyone. Perhaps you have done as I have in the past and not struggled well. Be encouraged dear saint! The LORD GOD in His Mercy has let us see into His Provision by this Psalm. He in His great Mercy has and is equipping us for such – that we may look unto the Person and Work of Christ. I find that I pray like this more often for my family, myself, and for the people of GOD here at Covenant of Peace. I pray that all circumstances, wonderful or terrible, will drive us to the feet of Christ. I pray this Psalm will be one you turn to be encouraged and helped in good times and difficult times. We are also reminded in this Psalm that which was written by the Prophets and the Apostles is effectual in His people, [Romans 15:4 NASB] **4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.** Ethan the Ezrahite is an example of: [1 Peter 1:10-12 NASB] **10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that [would come] to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.** We do not need songs of feeling, but songs affirming the Holiness, Majesty, and Sovereignty of GOD. That is what we have in this Psalm and in many of the old hymns. This is what Ethan sang – GOD in creation and redemption. The Psalms and the old hymns have enough emotion and Truth to last us all our days, and more than enough light for our darkest hour. And then there is prayer. In our songs we affirm how true GOD's Truth is; in our prayers we bring our amazement and being confounded into His presence, and with a granted belief ask Him to quicken His promises.

By His Mercy may we bring Him into our lives, needs, and circumstances. May we hold fast to our LORD in all things and in all times. May we by His Merciful Grace recount His Faithfulness, Lovingkindness, and love for His people. May we praise His name when we are walking with “thorns in the flesh”. Again, I say, may we be as the psalmist in that he ended this journey where he began – by praising the LORD GOD. [Psalm 89: 52 NASB] **52 Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and amen.**