

Psalm 89 Introduction

Introduction: This is the closing Psalm of Book 3 which contains Psalms 73 through 89. Book 3 has within it some of the most intense despair that is poured out to the LORD from the broken-hearted saint. Not all of the Psalms in this Book are laments as we have seen in recent weeks. There are also some of these Psalms that are praise to our LORD. However, Book 3 is mostly characterized by the pleas from the hurting and struggling believer. Psalm 89 has within it anguish of the heaviest kind – a spiritual crisis of the appearance that the covenant sworn to David by the LORD GOD had been spurned which the psalmist expresses as the LORD having cast off His people and rejecting them. The psalmist lays his heart bare before the Throne of Grace and pleas with the Only One that can speak peace to the poor in spirit, those who mourn – the broken-hearted.

Read Psalm 89 verses 1 – 4; 38 – 39, and 49.

This Psalm is different than the others that express despair in that it begins with praise and moves toward the expressing of agony. The other Psalms that are laments begin by expressing the complaint first and then moving toward praise. My hope this morning is to set the context of this Psalm as we will, LORD willing, spend the next several weeks looking at each verse. This type of Psalm teaches us to deal with the LORD honestly and humbly. They teach us it is a good thing to go before the LORD and lay our hearts bare before Him. Let's look at the Covenant that the psalmist speaks of as it was expressed to David:

This the Word of the LORD that came to Nathan spoken to the LORD's servant David:

Read II Samuel 7: 8 – 16

The promise is the LORD will establish the Throne of His Kingdom forever by raising up David's descendant after him. [2 Samuel 7:12 NASB] **12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.** The psalmist first expresses praise to the LORD for His faithfulness in this covenant and then moves toward the pain of it seeming as though the LORD has broken His promise in which there is no greater pain or dilemma to the believer than to be in this state. And, if we are honest, we deal with this sort of anguish as believers. We are prone to wander, to have periods of unbelief and doubt. The psalmist well knew the promise that David's Son would always sit on the throne, even though it now appeared to not be the case. There are times when we feel abandoned and broken by what we see and feel by difficulty and trial. These are times when the believer will do as the psalmist does – run to the LORD for His Mercy and His persevering Grace. There are times when we desperately need to be reminded of GOD's lovingkindness and faithfulness toward His people.

The LORD in His great mercy has revealed to you and me that the True and Eternal Son, the descendant of David in the flesh, Christ Jesus, is He who has, is now, and will always be the King of the Eternal Kingdom and is ruling and reigning now from His Throne.

Please follow along as I read the account of the Apostle Paul making this covenant known as he preaches the Gospel.

Read Acts 13: 13 – 39.

Here in what is Paul's first missionary journey, he makes known that the Jesus is the Messiah and the fulfillment of the promise made to David. Dear Brothers and Sisters, we do struggle – and sadly, we sometimes lose sight of GOD's faithfulness. The fact that we will struggle has recently been brought to light as our Pastor is preaching through I Peter. The Apostle Peter refers to the believers he is writing to as scattered aliens which infers the difficulty that comes our way. This type of language runs throughout the Scripture – that those chosen of GOD are to not be of this world. But, he also refers to the scattered aliens as those who are chosen, which is our great joy and our hope. As believers, struggle is certain, but not without hope. Whether we

are struggling or not, there is but One which we should run to and rest in – to the King of kings, the Lamb of GOD, the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Great Shepherd, the Great I AM. My hope is that you are encouraged by the LORD GOD and His faithfulness. His mercy and faithfulness are ever before us. His faithfulness is manifested by His mercifully revealing the Gospel to us. It is seen in the covenant made with David long ago, how He saves His people through that promise. Or perhaps you don't know Him – perhaps you don't know His Mercy by experience. See that He is faithful in dealing with you at this moment and run to Him. May He give each of us eyes to see.

Amen