

Psalm 89 Part 2

Introduction:

The Power and Majesty of GOD.

Read Psalm 89:9-14

Verse 9 – Here we are given the Truth of GOD's sovereignty. We know from the account of Creation and from Job that the LORD has determined the boundaries of His seas. He has drawn the line and the seas can only go as far as He determines. [Job 38:11 NASB] **11 And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop'?** The Truth expressed here should take our minds and hearts to an account of our Lord, Christ Jesus, given in the Gospels. [Luke 8:22-25 NASB] **22 Now on one of [those] days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. 23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they [began] to be swamped and to be in danger. 24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. 25 And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"** A summary of the Truth that is given in verses 9 and 10 of Psalm 89 are in the Book of Job. [Job 26:12 NASB] **12 "He quieted the sea with His power, And by His understanding He shattered Rahab.**

Verse 10 – Egypt is once again referred to as Rahab. Rahab is a sea monster of Near Eastern mythology which represents evil and chaos. This is seen in Ezekiel's prophecy of judgement against Egypt: [Ezekiel 29:2-3 NASB] **2 "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. 3 "Speak and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, The great monster that lies in the midst of his rivers, That has said, 'My Nile is mine, and I myself have made [it.]' Our Father's Glory is made known and it matters not if man rebels or submits – His Glory, Strength, and Majesty is not weakened. [Exodus 5:2 NASB] **2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD****

that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go." Often, we are discouraged as the psalmist as seen in Psalm 73 at the wicked who seemingly prosper. I was so encouraged and strengthened by Rixon's letter and it caused me to ponder along these lines. I have often stated that it is good and not bad to struggle against our great enemies (satan, the world, and the flesh), even though it be difficult. Struggle is certain in the life of one who is an alien in this world. Struggle is certain for those whom the LORD GOD has chosen. We are at odds with the world and we should be. But, just as struggle is certain, so much more certain is GOD's Faithfulness toward His people. So much more certain is His Lovingkindness and Mercy just as we have been reminded in verse 10 and the first part of this Psalm – particularly in the Covenant made with David. Through this Covenant our Greatest Hope is revealed and made sure – our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the end the wicked do not surely prosper. GOD is not lessened by man in any fashion. GOD is sovereign over all of His creation. He orders it and it is sustained by His Providence. Even what we determine as wicked is under GOD's sovereign hand. The prime account of such is seen in Acts 2 as the Apostle Peter preaches the Gospel on the day of Pentecost. Peter states this as he further reveals Christ as the Eternal Promise of the Covenant in his sermon: [Acts 2:22-24 NASB] **22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- 23 this [Man,] delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put [Him] to death. 24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.**

With these things in mind, let's look at Psalm 73. The first verse states a certain truth, (Read verse 1) then moves abruptly to struggle (Read verse 2). The envy of the wicked is expressed and is cause for the psalmist to come close to stumbling and causing his steps to almost slip. The envy is they do not struggle. (Read verses 3 - 5). The next several verses states plainly the manner of life of the arrogant. Then we have a turn in which we see the Mercy of GOD. The result of His Conviction or His making us "come to our senses" (as expressed in the Parable of the Prodigal Son) is seen (Read verses 16 -17). Then the psalmist considers the arrogant man's

end (Read verses 18 – 20). Lastly, the psalmist, by GOD’s rich Mercy is able to repent, which is an aspect or part of GOD’s Grace (Read verses 20 – 28). All of this is to GOD’s Glory and leads to a way of life that is contrary to the arrogant. The psalmist has the security and peace of belonging to the Father and by GOD’s Eternal Faithfulness realize His blessedness because of the struggle. All of this that he, the psalmist as well as us, may tell of all of the Father’s Works. This is what Biblical “believing” that results in righteousness (obedience) and Biblical “confessing” that leads to salvation looks like. [Romans 10:9-10 NASB] **9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus [as] Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** This is how we can know if we are believing and confessing as defined by GOD’s Holy Word – they both result in that which man can’t stir up within himself and is done by a Divine work of the LORD by His great Mercy – righteousness (grateful obedience) and salvation (sanctification leading to holiness in this life as well as eternally saved from the wrath of GOD).

Verse 11 – Purpose of Creation: All of GOD’s Creation is to sustain man that the Attributes of His Mercy and Grace be shown to man – the Attributes that could not be displayed within the Trinity. The verses above proclaim His Faithfulness and His Lovingkindness or Mercy and verse 11 declares all of Creation is His; that He has founded them. So, His Creation is to sustain man that He might display His Mercy and Glorious Grace to those Whom He chooses for His Glory. The LORD GOD has ordered all of Creation with **respect to His Covenant (read Psalm 89:3-4)**. O, the hope, the assurance, the blessedness that we have because of this Covenant or Promise made to King David (see Psalm 89:3-4, I Samuel 7) many years ago. Just as we have seen in our time in the Psalms, the people of GOD continually going back to and drawing strength from GOD’s deliverance of His people from Egypt, so we can look to His promise when we struggle. That is why our Pastor has taken the time to show us and explain how the Scripture commands us and guides us first in what we are to believe, and the secondly, how we are to live as a result of Revealed Truth - all of this by our LORD’s Mercy and Grace, for our good and His Glory.

Explain the term covenant.

Verse 12 – All that is seen and unseen, in all directions, GOD has created. Tabor and Hermon are mountains that are used to express east and west. Tabor is a mountain in the western part of Galilee, and Hermon in the eastern part.

Verse 13 – These are not empty words or simple phrases. It's not just that this that we acclaim such about the LORD GOD, but does our heart rejoice in His Strength? Has He given you the ability to joyfully make such statements and to delight in walking or living upon such Truth? Are you strengthened – your faith made greater – a stronger resolve to serve the LORD with thankfulness – a stronger love for Him – a greater concern for His Glory? Don't just read quickly through such passages. Ponder and meditate upon His power and goodness and the result of such in your own life. Not that we confess such and live upon this Truth perfectly, but honestly. A beneficial aspect of the Covenant is that the perfection demanded by the LORD GOD is granted to the believer in being covered by the perfect Work or Righteousness of Jesus Christ. The verses above give account of GOD's power and strength – an aspect of His sovereignty. This verse is a summary of those accounts – His rule of the swelling of the sea, His stilling the waves, His crushing Rahab, His scattering His enemies with His Mighty Arm. The heavens and the earth and all it contains are His, His Creation and Providence throughout history.

The Father's Right Hand speaks of His Omnipotence. It speaks of His Strength and Authority. Here is an aspect of the Covenant (read Psalm 89:3-4) stated: [Acts 2:33-34 NASB] **33**

"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, and: [1 Peter 3:22 NASB] **22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. The Work of Christ for the Father's Glory and for His**

people's benefit: [Hebrews 10:12 NASB] **12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,** and [Hebrews 12:2 NASB] **2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

The privilege of being at GOD's Right Hand: This is seen in that Jesus is now there as our High Priest interceding for us. This will also be the place of His people on that Great Day when a distinction is made in those who belong to Him and those that do not: [Matthew 25:33 NASB] **33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.** The sheep are His people and the goats are those who have rebelled against the commands to repent and believe.

The blessing of being at the Right Hand of GOD is accomplished by the fulfillment of the Covenant – that Christ, the Eternal King, is now at the Right Hand of the Father. He is our surety of our being at the Father's Right Hand.

Verse 14 – The foundation of GOD's throne is His Perfection and Purity. All that He does in His Providence for His Creation is perfect – it is good and serves His purpose for His Glory. In this His Mercy and Truth go before Him. It is by His Mercy that we may come before Him and know His lovingkindness. It is by His Mercy that we know the Truth and by His Grace that we abide in Him and live upon that Truth with joy, peace, and assurance.

Amen