

PSALM 88 - A Prayer for Help in Despondency!

3/18/23 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

CALL UPON THE LORD! Elevation Worship – (3:37)

We need no other hiding place Our hope is safe within Your name This we know, this we know You promise never to forsake What You began You will sustain This we know, this we know
I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain
All of the heavens and the earth Announce the fullness of Your worth This we know, this we know
And every enemy will flee As we declare your victory This we know, this we know
I will call upon the Lord For he alone is strong enough to save
Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]
Jesus' name will break every stronghold Freedom is ours when we call His name
Jesus' name above every other All hail the power of Jesus' name [x2]
I will call upon the Lord For He alone is strong enough to save
Rise your shackles are no more For Jesus Christ Has broken every chain [x2]

Psalms 88 The eighty-eighth psalm is perhaps one of the most mournful, dark and somber, of all of the psalms.

Quite often the psalmist will start out, in his prayer to the Lord, in distress and his soul is troubled. He is facing circumstances that are difficult. He doesn't understand but usually half way through the psalm there comes then the expressions of joy and of confidence that the Lord has heard my prayer, the Lord will answer and the Lord will establish. There's that hope.

The psalms usually end on a high not though they often begin in the low kind of a deep experience of hardship. They usually will turn and end on a note of hope and expression of God is going to work and deliver. Not in this psalm! It starts on a low note and goes lower. For you who are deeply melancholy you'll be able to identify with the psalmist in the particular psalm. He doesn't pull out of it, he stays down. Thus, it's a rather doleful psalm indeed.

The most encouraging and hopeful thing of the whole psalm is the very first phrase. ***O LORD God of my salvation!***

PSALM 88 – I Cry Out Day and Night Before You - A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the Chief Musician. Set to "Mahalath Leannoth." a Contemplation of Heman the Ezrahite.

Psa 88:1 O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You.

Psa 88:2 Let my prayer come before You; Incline (listen to) Your ear to my cry.

- That's the only thing that is hopeful at all. From here on it's just down. *O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You.*
- *Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your to my cry;* The declaration that I've been praying about this situation: "God listen to me" the psalmist is pleading.

Psa 88:3 For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave.

- From the psalm itself, it's very possible the fellow was dying. You see, they didn't have the same hope of eternal life that we have. The idea of living with the Lord in the glories of His kingdom was not something that was revealed to any great extent in the Old Testament. There was that belief and hope in the resurrection but not much knowledge about it.
- In the New Testament, through Jesus Christ and actually through the resurrection of Jesus Christ through Jesus taking away our sin, the sting of death has been removed. Paul said, "O grave, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?" The sting of death was in sin, but the Lord Jesus Christ has removed it. We don't need to have this same attitude as though death is a victory of the enemy. It

is the triumph of the child of God. It is the coronation day; it's the crowning day. I'm moving towards that crowning day of my life.

- Jesus made mention over and over of the day when the Son of Man was to be glorified and that was always a reference to His death. That through death, He was glorified. For the child of God, it is the coronation day. Death is not some horrible monstrous thing that is going to overtake us and bring us down into the jaws of death and into the darkness of the deeps as the psalmist is expressing. As Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. I'm in a straight betwixt too. I have a desire to be part and to be with Christ which is far better. Yet I know that you still need me for a while, so I've got to hang around". Then he said, "For we know who are in these bodies do often groan, earnestly desiring to be freed from the restriction of the body. Not that I would be an unembodied spirit, but I might be clothed upon with a body which is from heaven. For we know that as long as we are living in these bodies we are absent from the Lord, but we would choose rather to be absent from these bodies that we might be present with the Lord."
- The child of God has a totally different attitude because through Jesus Christ we have totally new understanding. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in Me though he were dead yet shall he live and if you live and believe in Me you will never die."
- The I move from the old tent into the house. I don't die, I just move, and this corruption puts on incorruption and this mortal puts on immortality. Death doesn't have the heavy, heavy connotation that it did in the Old Testament.

Psa 88:4 I am counted with those who go down (die) to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength,

- *I am counted with those who go down to the pit.* People already think of me as dead.
- *I am like a man who has no strength.* He is feeble, weak.

Psa 88:5 Adrift (free) among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand.

- *Adrift among the dead.* That is, no longer a slave but I am as those who are free among the dead.
- *Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand.* He felt that death would be that God just forgets about you once you die. Man forgets about you; I'm remembered no more. God doesn't even remember me. They are cut off from thy hand.

Psa 88:6 You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths.

- It gets worse.

Psa 88:7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah

- The Bible says, (*Psa 42:7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. (Jon 2:3) For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.* Your waves have afflicted me.

Psa 88:8 You have put (taken) away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out;

- It sounds like some of the complaints of Job in his book.

Psa 88:9 My eye wastes away because of affliction. LORD, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You.

- Still there is this affliction. God, it seems, has not answered. He still is pining away though he has called unto the Lord and though he has stretched out his hands to God, he still has not had any reprieve or relief.

Psa 88:10 Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah

- If he only knew, yes. (*Php 2:10-11*) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psa 88:11 Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

Psa 88:12 Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

Psa 88:13 But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psa 88:14 LORD, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?

- There is this despair though he had prayed about this situation. There seems to be no change, no difference, it just goes on and thus the discouragement. God isn't hearing. God isn't answering. Nothing has changed. I've cried unto the Lord and He has cast me off. He is hiding His face from me.

Psa 88:15 I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught.

- It seems like this was something that had been a condition that had existed through his life.

***Psa 88:16 Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off* (destroyed me).**

Psa 88:17 They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether.

- Your fierce wrath and terrors have overwhelmed me. I'm drowning. I'm going under.

Psa 88:18 Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

- That's it. I mean the guy's gone. There's no hope in this one. It's just a complaint unto the Lord for he sees no resolving of the problem. He sees no hope. He dies in despair. Let's hope though that things changed before he died.
- This is a very mournful psalm indeed. I don't like it. I'm glad that we have the New Testament revelation of the hope of our calling Christ Jesus. I'm glad that I don't look with dread and horror at death. I don't look at death as just the end. Really there are so many things that God has in store for those that love Him. The glories of his eternal emotions. The desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better yet the pulls that we have here from family, loved ones and friends that make you want to stay a little longer to minister and help and to be of comfort and cheer. But when I go to be with the Lord, how marvelous that is going to be. Ours is a whole different outlook. As Peter said, (*1Pe 1:3-5*) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, [5] who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- The psalmist didn't know that hope you see. That's why there is such a despair here. He didn't know the hope that we have in Jesus Christ or else he would have ended the psalm on a far different note.

Summary:

- This a great psalm to show us that as bad as we may have it, it does not compare with this one, with what the psalmist is going through!
- Think of Peter! (**Luk 22:31-32**) *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."* Why didn't Peter's faith fail? Could it be that because Jesus was praying for Him. Is that not also true for us?
- (**Heb 5:7-9**) *who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, [8] though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. [9] And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*
- (**Heb 7:25**) *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*
- This psalm is very encouraging in the aspect that we could never get through a great, great trial, without Jesus praying for us that our faith would not fail!
- There is another chapter in our life after this! We must ride out our trials like this one, that we may see how He uses our trials and afflictions to form us, shape us, completing His good work in us, making us what He wants us to be!

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS – Isaac Watts 1674-1748 (1707) – (3:00)

1. *When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*
2. *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*
3. *See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*
4. *Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.
Thou hast my soul, my life my all!*

FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY;
ISRAEL:**