

Psalm 86 - Review

In part 1 we learned that the title/subject of Psalm 86 was a “*Prayer in the Sanctuary*” because it was a prayer of David, who was in a covenantal relationship with the Lord (YHVH), which what being ‘in the Sanctuary’ is all about (as we learned when studying Psalm 73). And David was definitely sending up *supplications* (a beautiful prayer) to our Heavenly Father because he was going through a *very* difficult time in his life. And, while we weren’t told (from the title) exactly *when* it was written, it was, without a doubt, during a time of great distress for David. And, from the first two verses we covered in part 1, we learned (through David’s example) how to humbly beseech our Heavenly Father for help. For David asked the Lord (YHVH) to both hear his prayer, *and answer it*; and then explained *why* he needed help. For he was ‘poor’ and ‘needy’, which means he was feeling incredibly weak and was even destitute. Yet, he was wise enough to call upon the *only* One who *truly* could help him: our Heavenly Father. And he not only called Him ‘God’ (‘*Elohim* #430 – the *Supreme* God and our *Creator*) but also His Sacred Name, *Yehovah* #3068, which means the *self-existent* and *eternal one*. And his calling upon our Heavenly Father by His Sacred Name *showed* that David *was* in a covenantal relationship with Him; while calling Him ‘*Elohim*’ showed he acknowledged our Heavenly Father as the *Supreme* God *and* our Creator. But, verse 2 also proved this. For David reminded the Lord (YHVH) that he was HIS servant because he had been trying *hard* to be merciful and kind (wrongly translated as ‘holy’) to others. And this is what those who are in a ‘covenantal relationship’ with the Lord (YHVH) do; they *serve* Him by *sincerely obeying* Him! (Ex 19:5, 23:22; Lev 28:6; John 8:51, 14:15-27). And *that* is what’s needed to obtain God’s favor to help us. David also reminded God that he *truly* trusted *in Him* to ‘preserve’ (guard, protect and hedge about) his soul *and* save him out of the troubles he was having. Again, these are all things that those who are truly in a covenantal relationship with the Lord do (i.e. are ‘in the Sanctuary’).

In part 2 we learned more about how to humbly call upon the Lord (YHVH) for help. David asked God to be merciful (kind) to him because he truly prayed to Him – and to Him *alone* – each day. David pointed out (again) that He was the Lord’s servant and he ‘lifted up’ his soul to Him, which means he put his trust in God and looked to him (alone) for help. In other words, David did *not* worship *false* gods or idols; he was *truly* in a covenantal relationship with the Lord (YHVH). And he therefore asked God to make his soul rejoice (brighten up) by giving him peace, comfort and strength to get through his troubling times. And David then showed he really knew the Scriptures well. For he drew upon an account where God Himself described some of His characteristics, in order to give God *a reason* to hear his prayer! Indeed, God is good and ready (wants to) to forgive us, when we are ready (sincere) to repent. And He’s also plenteous in mercy, to all those who *sincerely* call upon (pray to) Him, and Him *only*. Our Heavenly Father is truly the one who created our soul and spirit (Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11, Gen 1:1); and He therefore deserves our sincere faith, love, trust and obedience. No one else deserves *that*, even though we are to love others according to the way God’s Word tells us to.

In part 3 we saw David *again* beseech the Lord (YHVH) to hear (and answer) his prayer. And, while it might seem redundant, Jesus taught us (in Lk 18) it's good for us to be steadfast in our prayers to the Lord (YHVH). And then, David started a new phase in his prayer, where he began to praise the Lord (YHVH). That's why David then declared he *only* called upon *the* Lord (YHVH) for help because, there's *no one else* among the 'gods' like Him - for no one else can do the mighty (amazing) works that our Heavenly Father can. Of course, the term 'gods' not only means *false* gods but also rulers and judges on earth. So, David was simply pointing out that there's no point to ask anyone else for help (especially not to *false* gods); for *no one* but the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty (the Supreme God and Judge of the earth) could truly help him out of the *great* troubles he was having. If this Psalm was written when David was on the run from Saul, this is understandable. Because Saul was the *king* of Israel; so, there was *no higher authority in the nation of Israel* (other than the Lord, YHVH) to ask for help! And David well knew *false* gods were no help either; that's why he did not worship them, nor call upon them for help! And then, David also declared that he knew that all the heathen nations (which are God's creation too) would ultimately be subjugated to the Lord (YHVH); which *will* be done through Jesus Christ's Second Advent. So again, his point was that: it was pointless to try and ask for help from anyone else *because* the Lord (YHVH) is truly the King of kings and Lord of lords *over all* that is in heaven *and* earth. So, David is really making the point clear as to *why* he's humbly asking the *true* God (Yehovah = YHVH) for help. He truly is the *only one* who can help us out of *any* trouble. And that's a great lesson for us to remember, too!

In part 4 we saw David proclaim (again) that our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is the *only* Supreme God (for He created *all* things) and that He is indeed *great* and does *wonderous* things. And His mighty works (including His creation) *separate Him* from all other 'gods' and 'things' that are worshiped; *proving* that He *truly* is God alone. Then we saw David make a beautiful request for God to help him 'unite' his heart so he could fear (and revere) God's name (holy character) *always*. For those who are double minded cannot truly worship, nor serve (obey) the Lord. And that's because they allow their carnal mind to *control them*... instead of them controlling their carnal mind (heart, the part of us that *wants* to sin). And David promised that, when God helped him 'unite' his heart to fear (and revere) God's name (by teaching David His ways and helping him walk in His truth; i.e. His Word) David would *always* praise Him for it *and* glorify (honor) His precious name (holy character).

In part 5 we learned that God had already shown David great mercy (kindness) by delivering him from the darkest of times. And yet, proud (arrogant) and violent (powerful) men (who did not worship the Lord, YHVH) were *still* seeking to kill him. So, he asked (again) for God to show him mercy and given him the strength (and comfort) he needed to get through this very difficult time in his life. And he also reminded God that He Himself declared that He is full of compassion, grace, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth (Ex 34:6); this showed that

David knew the Scriptures well and was indeed calling on God to *fulfil His promises* to those who seek, fear (and revere), love and serve Him. And David ended this lovely prayer by asking God to show him a ‘token’ (a sign or evidence) that He would help David. And this ‘token’ he asked for was essentially deliverance, and comfort, from those seeking his life. And the Lord (YHWH) truly did this for David. For God caused the man who had been persecuting David for years (king Saul) to die in battle (disgraced) and then raised David up to rule *all* of Israel. So indeed, eventually, *all* of David’s enemies *knew* that God *was with him*, which meant that He was *against them* for persecuting one of His ‘anointed’ servants (1 Chron 16:22 and Ps 105:15).

So, we should remember this beautiful prayer of David; especially when hard times come our way (and *they will* **if** we’re *truly* serving Jesus Christ, John 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12). For he teaches us how to humbly beseech our Heavenly Father. And, in doing so, he also teaches us *why* it’s important to study God’s Word. For within the many examples in God’s Word (1 Cor 10:11) we not only learn *what not* to do but also what we *should do*. And also, through the many examples in God’s Word, we learn how ‘walk with God’ (i.e. walk ‘in the Spirit’, Gal 5, Rom 8) by *believing* in, *trusting* in and *striving to obey* Him *from the heart* – just as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, David and *so many others* did. As Paul wrote in Rom 15:4: *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*. And above all, let us not forget the perfect (without sin) example that our Lord and Jesus Christ gave us (Phil 2:5-8; 1 Pt 4:1-2). For He suffered *tremendously* to atone for our sins, and redeem our soul from death (and Satan and sin, Heb 2:14). And it is through our faith in (and obedience to, Acts 5:32) the precious blood of Jesus Christ (and His resurrection) that we are given the blessed Holy Spirit that comforts us [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1262>]... *no matter* what comes our way...

*15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast, and hold** the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. [i.e. the Word of God, not traditions of man]*

*16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, **and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace**,*

*17 **Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.***

2 Thess 2:15-17

AMEN.