

Psalm 88 - Review

In part 1 we learned that, while this Psalm 88 is typically looked upon as a very ‘sad’ (or gloomy) Psalm, it is a *Mas'-chil* Psalm, which means it is a Psalm of instruction which *gives us the basis of all true instruction and understanding*. And it’s also a Psalm written by Heman, who was one of the three *chief* musicians in David’s day. And, he was a *very* wise – so much so that he was compared to *Solomon’s* wisdom (1 Kings 4:31). And he was also a prophet of God as well (1 Chron 15:1,5). So, this was no ordinary citizen. And, 2 Tim 3:16-17 also tells us that *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*. Therefore, there is a *reason* that this Psalm is included in God’s Word. And the reason is because it *teaches us vital* lessons, as the very word *Mas'-chil* means.

And indeed, we learned *several* vital lessons from this ‘sad’ Psalm. The *first* of which was (as Paul pointed out in 1 Cor 10:11) there’s *nothing* that will happen *to you* that’s not *common to all people in the flesh*. Therefore, even this Heman had a very difficult time in his life. And, from the context of the Psalm, it appeared he was suffering from a terrible disease of some sort. And his disease (or ailment, whatever it was) was *so bad* that he felt as though he was literally going to die. And that caused him to become depressed. For even his friends and family didn’t want to be around him on account of his sickness. Yet, while this Heman was getting depressed from his sickness, he *still* called upon God for help; even using God’s Sacred (and covenant) name Yehovah (YHVH). That shows he was *still* loyal to the one and only *true* God, our Creator. And that’s the *second* vital lesson we learned in this ‘sad’ Psalm of instruction and understanding (*Mas'-chil* Psalm). So long as we don’t forsake our Heavenly Father, he *won’t ever* forsake us. Not even when He is chastising us. And Heman did appear to feel that God was chastising him through his sickness. Which is why he *continued* to sincerely beseech the Lord (YHVH) for help. As he wrote in the latter part of verse 9, *LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee*.

In part 2 we continued to see Heman call upon God for healing from his terrible sickness. And, several times, he used a figure of speech (*Erotosis*, apx 6) to do so, by asking a question to express his *great* grief, and frustration, from *continuing* to be sick with *such a painful* ailment that alienated him from his friends and family. He ended up feeling *so alone* that it seemed as if darkness (yea, death itself) was his only friend who ‘stuck by him’. Yet, that was merely his ‘flesh’ ‘talking’ to him. And that’s another vital lesson we learned from this great ‘Mas-chil’ Psalm. No matter what happens to us, we’ve got to learn to *patiently endure* the hard times. Even if this ailment was a chastisement from God, it was for Heman’s *benefit*; as God chastises only those He loves. So, while we did not get to see what happened on account of this prayer by Heman, we can be assured that our Heavenly Father did eventually heal him. But, getting to see how ‘low’ Heman got from being *so sick* teaches us that, not only will we all get sick at times,

but also, *anyone* can get depressed from physical ailments because it's simply part of being in the flesh. But, what our Heavenly Father expects us to do is 'rise above' our carnal mind (heart, fleshly way of thinking) and *trust in Him no matter how hard times get*. For, we'll be far better off, after the Lord (YHVH) helps us get through our troubles, then before. Our faith in Him will only grow as we learn to endure the hard times and overcome temptations.

After all, if we serve Him, He won't let anything happen to use that we cannot endure. He'll *always* give us the strength to get through whatever comes our way (1 Cor 10:11). Remember that promise, beloved. For hard times are coming. And while you may never be as sick as this poor Heman was, you'll probably have something that's very difficult to endure in your lifetime for *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution* (2 Tim 3:12). We are, after all, in a spiritual battle (Eph 6) for the hearts and minds of God's children. And if you serve the Living God (and Jesus Christ) you can be assured that Satan **is** after you. So, put on the Gospel Armor (Eph 6) and stand strong – no matter what happens. For, *only* those who endure (meaning, to have the fortitude to *persevere* #5278) *to the end shall be saved* (Mth 24:13). And herein is another 'great lesson' from this great 'Mas-chil' Psalm of Heman...

In your patience possess ye your souls.

Luke 21:19

AMEN.