

Part 2 – Who Is Like the Lord?

In part 1 we learned that this is the *last* chapter (Psalm 89) that is in the “Leviticus book” of the Psalms. And it’s still part of the portion (chapters 84-89) that are concerning the ‘**Sanctuary in Relation to Yehovah**’ (instead of ‘to man’). And it has yet a different subject/title, which is: “**Instruction as to Blessing in the Sanctuary**”. And it’s yet another ‘*Mas’chil*’ Psalm (i.e. a Psalm of ‘understanding’ and ‘instruction’) but, this time, it’s written by Ethan (also called Jeduthun) who was (along with Heman) one of three *chief* musicians during the days of David and Solomon (1 Chron 6:31-43, 15:16-19). And, as the *Companion Bible* points out, it’s likely that this Psalm was written, by Ethan, *after* Solomon had died and the northern ten tribes of Israel rebelled against Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, and separated completely from the southern two tribes (Judah and Benjamin). And in the first four verses we covered in part 1, we saw the Psalmist (Ethan) promise to sing of the Lord’s (YHWH’s) mercies and faithfulness (truth) to all generations (forever). The fact that we *still* have this Psalm shows he made good on his word! And then, in this verse 2, he began to tell us *why* he promised to forever sing of God’s mercies and faithfulness (truth) – *it’s because of the covenant God made with David*. And Ethan was *specifically* referring to the part of it where God spoke of His mercy always being with David. While many king’s ‘dynasties’ have ended (as Saul’s did), God promised David that his *never* would; and the only way that *could* (and thus, did) happen is because the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was a ‘son of David’, meaning He was a descendant (through Mary) of David. And, because Jesus Christ raised from the dead (so He now has *eternal* life), He’s going to rule – *forever* – from Jerusalem when He returns to earth (at His Second Advent). And *that’s* how He (Jesus Christ) will fulfill God’s promise to David that His ‘seed’ and throne would be established *forever*.

Now, we also ended the last study with a ‘selah’, which always means to ‘*stop and think*’ about what *has been said* (vs 4) with what’s *about to be said* (vs 5). So, the ‘selah’ in verse 4 connects the recital (reciting) of YHWH’s covenant with the praise offered for it. And that’s the thought we pick up with in this great Psalm 89...

Psalm 89

*5 And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy **faithfulness** also in the congregation of the saints.*

Now, the word ‘**praise**’ here means *to revere* or *worship* (#3034) and the word ‘**wonders**’ actually means *a miracle* (#6382). And, of course, the word ‘**Lord**’ here is God’s Sacred (and covenant) name, *Yehovah* (#3068), which means *self-existent* and *eternal*. So, Ethan now declares that, not only will *he* sing praise to the Lord (YHWH), but *so will those in heaven*. And then we see the word ‘faithfulness’ again, which is (as it was in verses 1 and 3) the Hebrew word ‘*emwnah*’, which means *firmness*, *security* or *morally fidelity* (#530). And it comes from a word

that means *stablished*, i.e. (figuratively) *trusty* but also (abstractly) *trustworthiness* (#529). And that comes from a word that means *to build up or support*; *to foster as a parent or nurse*; figuratively *to render* (or *be*) *firm* or *faithful*, *to trust* or *believe*, *to be permanent* or *quiet*; morally *to be true or certain* (#539). So, this word rendered as ‘faithfulness’ could also be rendered as ‘truth’, as it will be in verse 49. And the word ‘congregation’ means an *assemblage* (#6951). And while the word ‘saints’ does mean *a saint*, it *can also mean a sacred thing*, such as *God*, His *sanctuary* or even an *angel* (#6918). Since Ethan is speaking of how the heavens will praise the Lord (YHVH) for His miracles (wonders), it’s likely he’s referring to the ‘angels’ that are in heaven; for truly, they too praise Him for His wonders and faithfulness (truth). We’re given glimpses of this, prophetically speaking, in the book of Revelations (5:8-14, 7:9-12, 14:1-3, 15:1-4, 19:1-6). But, after Jesus Christ was born, the shepherds literally saw this. As it is written: *and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:13-14). So, the point that Ethan is making is, clearly, to point out that: it’s not *just* those who are on earth (in flesh bodies) that praise God for His great mercies, miracles and faithfulness (truth) - there are even ‘angels’ in heaven who praise and worship Him too – which is why he goes on to say...

Psalms 89

6 For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?

Ethan is now explaining *why* those on earth – and even angels in heaven – praise our Heavenly Father, who he twice calls Yehovah (#3068) in this 6th verse. The use of God’s Sacred (and covenant) name (used *twice* here) is to point out that only those who are in a covenant relationship with the Lord (Yehovah = YHVH) are the ones who praise Him – both on earth and in heaven. After all, there are still rebels in heaven, just as on earth. But thankfully, Jesus has taken dominion *away* from the rebels in heaven (Col 2:15; Heb 2:14), which is why they will soon get their butts kicked out of heaven, *to earth* (Rev 12:7-9). So, the reason that the Lord (YHVH) is praised (and worshiped), on earth *and in heaven*, is because ***there is truly no one else like Him***. And the Psalmist (Ethan) uses a common figure of speech (*Erotosis*, apx 6) which is when a question is asked, but not for an answer or even for information - simply to make a point. And the point is that *there is truly no one on earth, or in heaven, that is comparable to the Lord* (YHVH). Which is why Ethan goes on to ask another question to make a point; today we’d call it a ‘rhetorical question’ because he didn’t expect an answer and was not seeking information. His point is clearly that ***there is no one*** in heaven (and definitely not on earth) that can be likened (or compared) to the Lord (YHVH). This verse truly is the most noble praise of all the Lord’s (YHVH’s) saints (Ps 33:26-27; 1 Sam 2:2; 1 Chron 17:20; Ps 35:10; 71:19; 73:25; 86:8; 113:5, etc.).

So, Ethan basically says the same thing twice to emphasize the point that no one is greater than our Heavenly Father (Yehovah = YHVH). After all, his very name Yehovah declares that He (alone) is *self-existent* and *eternal*. Which is why He told Moses that “I AM THAT I AM” in Ex 3:14. He basically told Moses HE EXISTS... always HAS and *always* WILL (Rev 1:8, 11, 21:6, 22:13). **Our heavenly Father is the only being who is self-existent.** And *that’s the point* the Psalmist (Ethan) is making. Not even the ‘sons of the mighty’ can be compared to the Lord (YHVH). But... what’s he talking about? The word ‘**sons**’ here simply means *a son* (#1121) and can also be used for a grandson or further descendants. But, the word ‘**mighty**’ here is actually ‘**El**’ (#410) - a common word used to refer to the Almighty God. However, it’s also used of *any* deity and simply means *strength* and *mighty*. So, most likely, the Psalmist (Ethan) is simply saying that none of the angels in heaven can be compared to our Heavenly Father (YHVH). While there are many supernatural beings in the heavens, there are no self-existent beings other than our heavenly Father, whose name is YHVH. **We were all created by Him, and we’re all dependent upon Him for our existence.** Yes, we can live eternally, IF we’re faithful to Him (through Jesus Christ) and to His Word, by working to “keep” (#8104, to guard or preserve) His Word (Ps 37:34). But **enjoying eternal life is not the same thing as being self-existent.** As distinguished from all of His creation, He’s the only self-existent one. He is, always has been and always will be (Rev 1:8,11, 16:5, 21:6, 22:13). There’s *never* been a time He *hasn’t* existed, and there will *never* be a time that He *doesn’t* exist. “I am that I am” sums it up.

And that’s why there is no one in heaven or on earth who can even come close to being compared to the Lord (YHHV). However, *there is someone that will try.* And it is a child of God who was created more beautiful than anyone else (aside from Jesus Christ, Ezek 28). In fact, he is so beautiful, so charming and such a good speaker that he’ll be able to persuade most everyone on earth to worship *him* as God Almighty. In fact, he’ll even be able to fool many Christians into thinking he is the ‘real’ Jesus Christ (as Paul warned us in 2 Thess 2). That person is none other than Satan himself – yes, Satan IS the antichrist [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>]. But *he does not come to earth saying that.* He’ll come to earth *disguised as an ‘angel of Light’* who has come to ‘save us’ from all our troubles; and he’ll have many others (fallen angels) who come with him *carrying the same wicked lies* in their deceitful mouths (2 Cor 11:13-15, Rev 12:7-9). So, it is critically important that we get to know our Heavenly Father *really well* so we are not deceived by the imposter (Satan himself) that is soon coming. And we get to know our Heavenly Father simply *by studying His Word* (sincerely, and for ourself) *each day*. When we do so, *sincerely*, the Holy Spirit will help us to understand *who* our Heavenly Father is and *what* He wants us to do [<https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39>]. And that will *prepare* us for the ‘great tribulation’ where Satan will pretend to be God himself. If we don’t know the *true* God (YHVH) and the *true* Christ (Jesus), then we won’t be able to distinguish the *true* God (YHVH) and Savior (Jesus) from *the fake* (Satan) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>]. And that, sadly, will be the downfall of many foolish Christians, as Jesus warned us in Mth 7:21-24 and in the parable of the virgins in Mth 25 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>].

Psalm 89

7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

The word ‘**God**’ here is the same word rendered as ‘mighty’ in the prior verse (6). It’s ‘**El**’ (#410), which means *the Almighty God* who is *Omnipotent*; it shows His *strength, power* and *might*. El is the God Who knows all (first occ. Gen 14:18-22) and sees all (Gen 16:13) and that performeth all things for His people (Ps 57:2) and in Whom all the Divine attributes are concentrated. And, while it can also be used of any deity, the Psalmist (Ethan) is most definitely using to refer to the Lord (YHVH) here. And the word ‘**feared**’ here means *to awe* or (intransitive) *to dread* (#6206). Further, the word ‘**assembly**’ means *a session*, i.e. *company of persons* (in close deliberation); by implication, *intimacy, consultation, a secret* (#5475). The *Companion Bible* notes renders it as ‘**secret conclave**’. And the word ‘**saints**’ again means *a saint* but can also mean *an angel* (#6918). And then the word ‘**reverence**’ means not only *to fear* but also *to revere* (#3372), so ‘reverence’ is a pretty good translation for this verse, because the first part of the verse already pointed out that we should fear the Lord, by *fearing to sin against Him* (Prov 16:6). And lastly, the Ethan speaks of God (‘El, #410) being revered and feared by *all* those saints who are ‘**about**’ Him, which means *a circle* or *around* (#5439). We get glimpses of this in such Scriptures as Rev 4:4-11, 5:11-14 and 7:9-12.

So again, Ethan is pointing out that our Heavenly Father (YHVH) not only deserves to be praised and worshiped on earth, but also in heaven. And the reason is because *there is no one else like Him*. He is, after all, the creator of us all (Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11). As Ps 96:4-5 points out: *the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens*. It is because the Lord (YHVH) made heaven (and earth) that He should be praised, feared, love, worshiped and obeyed – which also means no one else deserves this! The only thing false gods can do is *promise us things*; most of which they can never make good on. But, our heavenly Father is always ‘good for His Word’ – we can always count on Him! And, so long as we don’t forsake Him, He’ll never forsake us.

Psalm 89

8 O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

Again, the Psalmist (Ethan) is using the figure of speech (*Erotosis*, apx 6) where he puts out questions to make a point (not to get an answer or even information). And his point is clearly that there is NO ONE who is as ‘strong’ as the Lord (YHVH). The word ‘**strong**’ here means *firm*, i.e. (by implication) *mighty* (#2626). Not only is the Lord (YHVH) able to do all things (He’s got the power) but He’s also morally strong. As Ps 145:17 says, *He is righteous in all his ways, and*

holy in all his works. And there isn't anyone as 'faithful' as He is either. And here again we see that word '**faithfulness**', which means **firmness, security** and **morally fidelity** (#530). And it comes from a word that means **established, trusty** and **trustworthiness** (#529). And that comes from a word that means **to build up or support, to foster as a parent or nurse, to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet** as well as **morally to be true or certain** (#539). As Deut 32:4 points out, *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.* So, Yehovah (YHVH) is strong (firm and mighty) because He is 'faithful' (a God of truth and perfect in all His ways). And all those who are 'round about' Him know this!

And there's also a 'Yehovah title' in this verse too (apx 4 II); one we've seen before in Psalms 59:5, 69:6, 80:4,19 and 84:8. So, by now we know that the words "**the Lord of Hosts**" is actually *two* words combined to become a 'title' for the Lord (Yehovah = YHVH) Himself. The word '**Lord**' here is God's Sacred Name [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>], **Yehovah** (#3068), which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal**. And the word '**God**' here is the word '**Elohiym**' (#430), meaning **the Supreme God**, who is our **Creator**. '**Elohiym** (or '**Elohim**) is God the Creator putting His omnipotence ('**El**) into operation. It's first occurrence (Gen 1:1) connects it with creation, and gives it its essential meaning as the Creator. **It indicates His relation to mankind as His creatures** (see note on 2 Chron 18:31, where it stands in contrast with Yehovah as indicating *convent relationship*). And then the word '**hosts**' is *tsaba'* or (feminine) *tseba'ah* which means **a mass of persons organized for war**, which essentially means **an army** (#6635). As notes in the *Companion Bible* (on 1 Sam 1:3) explain, **this 'title' denotes God of Israel as the Lord of all the hosts of heaven and earth.** So, the fact that this Psalmist uses this 'title' of the Lord (YHVH) reveals that he is in a 'covenant' relationship with our Heavenly Father for Yehovah is the true God *in covenant relation* to those whom He has created. Yehovah thus the Eternal or Immutable One, He Who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME. The Divine definition is given in Gen 21:33. He is especially, therefore, the God of Israel; and the God of those who are redeemed, and are thus now 'in Christ'.

However, there's also another 'name/title' for our Heavenly Father. The second word '**Lord**' here is **Yahh** or **Yah** (#3050), *in contraction for Yehovah*, #3068, and it thus *means the same thing as* Yehovah (#3068). So, Yah IS Yehovah *in a special sense and relation*: i.e. **Yehovah as having BECOME our Salvation** (first occurrence Ex 15:2), He Who IS, and WAS, and IS TO COME. It occurs 49 times (7x7, see apx. 10). So, not only is Ethan pointing out that Yehovah is Elohiym (#430) – the Supreme God and our Creator – but He's also our Salvation – our only salvation at that! As the Lord (YHVH) Himself said in Isa 63:1: *I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.* Our Heavenly Father is indeed mighty to save and He is our only Savior (Isa 43:11, 45:21). That's why He came to earth (incarnated as Jesus Christ) to save us from our sins and from Satan's deception, which is what kills us spiritually [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>]. It is the truth that sets us free from the lies and deception that spiritually kills us (John 8:31-32) and

God's Word IS the truth (John 17:17) that gives us eternal life (John 6:63). As the Lord (YHWH) said in Isa 45:19, He has not spoken 'in secret', He's openly declared (through His written word and prophets) what is right. As His faithful servant Moses told Israel...

11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.
Deut 30:11-14

God's Words are 'nigh' to us when we absorb them into our heart (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and mind (thoughts) so that we stop wanting to rebel because we understand why doing so is so detrimental to us (it kills us). Our Heavenly Father has given us His Word (Laws) for our good (Deut 10:13) because it leads us in the path of life (Ps 16:11). So, we don't have to look for truth up in heaven, in the sea or anywhere else other than the Word of God. And, when we seek Him with all our heart, mind strength (will power), we will find Him – that's a promise directly from our Heavenly Father (Deut 4:27-31; Jer 29:10-14; 1 Chron 28:9, 2 Chron 15:2).

So, the Psalmist (Ethan) really says *a lot* in this one verse (Ps 89:8). He's not only declaring that our Heavenly Father is *self-existent* and eternal (and we *need* Him to live *forever*), the Supreme God, our *Creator* and the *Lord of all the hosts of heaven and earth* - but also that He's the *only* way to live eternally (our savior). Again, Ethan is giving our Heavenly Father the *ultimate* praise possible because, quite truly, He deserves it! There's no one – in heaven or earth – who is more righteous (holy), just, fair, loving, strong and faithful (full of truth) than He is. Therefore, it's wise for us to diligently love, fear (revere), and obeying Him *because* He leads us to *eternal* life (Deut 11:22). And truly, being *spiritually* close to Him (having His Words and Holy Spirit in our heart and mind) is the *only* thing that gives us peace of mind, and internal strength, to *do what's right* despite living in a world that continuously tries to get us to rebel against Him (to our detriment). As David so beautifully wrote in Ps 16:11: *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* We are at God's 'right hand' when we are 'in Christ Jesus' – meaning when we're a part of the Body of Christ. When we truly believe in, trust and sincerely strive to obey Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate) then we *are* being led in the path of life (to eternal life) and we *will* have the fulness of joy and pleasures forever more *because of* the blessed peace that the Holy Spirit brings to our inner man (Phil 4:6-8, Isa 26:3-4).

And these are all things we should keep *tightly* in our heart and remember *always*. For, when times get tough, it is the promises of God's Word – and the examples of His Word - that prove (remind us of) His faithfulness to those who love and obey Him – and *that* is what helps us endure the hard times *without* becoming bitter and resentful... things that cause us to turn away from the Lord (YHVH) and sin (rebel). For, as Jesus Christ warned us, it's only those who actually *do* (obey) God's Word (from the heart) that will inherit the earth (and be given eternal life) when Jesus returns to take over and rule forever (Mth 5:19, 21-27) ...

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Gal 6:7-9

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.