

Part 7 – God’s Faithfulness and Mercy

In part 6 we saw the Psalmist again remind the Lord (YHWH) of His *unconditional* promises He made to David. But this time, he’s giving *much more* detail than he did in verses 2-4. That’s why he began by pointing out that the Lord (YHWH) spoke to the prophet Samuel (in a vision) saying that, while He rejected Saul as king over Israel (because he consistently disobeyed God), He had ‘set His eyes’ on a man who would serve Him *faithfully*, because he was a ‘man after God’s own heart’ (1 Sam 13:14). And that man was David, a *very* young man at the time he was anointed by Samuel (and the Holy Spirit). The Psalmist also pointed out, to God, how He *promised* to establish, and strengthen, this one David, which the Lord (YHWH) *was faithful* to do since his youth up; even during the many years David had to live in ‘on the run’, in the wilderness, so Saul wouldn’t kill him. And when David finally did become king over *all* of Israel, the Lord prospered Israel *immensely* and gave David the victory, in battle, over *all* Israel’s enemies. And then the Psalmist also pointed out how God promised to ‘plant’ Israel in a place where they wouldn’t be afflicted by the ‘sons of wickedness’ anymore. And this was actually a *prophecy* God gave to David, which looked forward to the rise of the Christian nations *after* the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came to die for the sins of Israel (and all of mankind). But, it *also* looks forward to the *return* of the Messiah (Jesus Christ). For truly, that’s when the ‘sons of the wickedness’ will *finally* cease (totally) afflicting Israel (and all those who love the Lord, YHWH). For, when Jesus Christ returns, He’ll depose *all* the wicked ones from power and install *His* government (the Body of Christ) who will reign with Him (in righteousness) *forevermore*. But, the Psalmist (Ethan) is not done reminding God of His (*unconditional*) promises to David. So, let’s see what else he has to say...

Psalms 89

*24 But my **faithfulness** and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.*

Here again we see that word ‘**faithfulness**’, which means *firmness*, *security* and morally *fidelity* (#530). And it comes from a word that means *established*, i.e. (figuratively) *trusty* as well as trustworthiness (#529), which comes from a word that means, figuratively, *to render* (or *be*) *firm* or *faithful*, to *trust* or *believe*, to be *permanent* or *quiet*; morally *to be true or certain* (#539). And then the word ‘**mercy**’ again means *kindness* (#2617). And the word ‘**name**’ is used here, by implication, to mean *honor*, *authority* and *character* (#8034) while the word ‘**horn**’ is figurative for *power* (#7161). And the word ‘**exalted**’ means to be *high actively*, to *rise* or *raise* (#7311). So, this is another thing that the Lord unconditionally promised David...

*12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will **set up** thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will **establish** his kingdom.*

*13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will **stablish** the throne of his kingdom for ever.*

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

*16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be **established** for ever before thee: thy throne shall be **established** for ever.*

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

2 Sam 7:10-17

Now, let's take a look at the Hebrew of the highlighted words above. The words 'set up' in verse 12 means **to rise** (#6965). And the word 'established', in verse 12 and the *second* time it's used in verse 16, both mean **to be erect** (i.e. stand perpendicular); hence (causatively) **to set up**, in a great variety of applications, whether literal (establish, fix, prepare, apply), or figurative (appoint, render sure, proper or prosperous) (#3559). But the *first* time the word 'established' is used, in verse 16, is the prime root of the word 'faithfulness' here in Ps 89:24 - #539, which means, figuratively, **to render** (or **be**) **firm** or **faithful**, to **trust** or **believe**, to be **permanent** or **quiet**; morally **to be true or certain**. And the word 'mercy', in verse 15, is the same word as 'mercy' as here in verse 24, which means **kindness** (#2617). So, these verses (10-17) in 2 Sam 7 are *exactly* what this Psalmist (Ethan) is referring to here in Ps 89. Indeed, God *did* promise to set up (exalt) – which means to raise up – David's 'house' (his descendants). And the way He will do that is 'in His name', which is why Jesus' Greek name (#2424) comes from the Hebrew word **Yehowshuwa** or **Yehowshu`a** (#3091), which means **Yehovah-saved**.

So, 'in God's name' David's 'horn' (power) *was* exalted, not only because God gave David the victory *time and time again* but, *prophetically* speaking, because Jesus Christ came *in the name of Yehovah*. Not only did Jesus' Greek name come from Yehovah's name but so did Jesus Himself - for God was literally the Father of Jesus Christ (Lk 1:35, Mth 1:18, 20) whom God promised would save His people (Israel) from their sins (Mth 1:21). And that's why His (Jesus') 'horn' (power) was exalted *through His resurrection*. That's also why God did not take away His mercy from David's 'house' (his descendants) – because He promised David that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come through his 'seed' (descendants). And, as Jesus said after He resurrected (literally) from the dead, **all** power was given to Him (from His Father) in heaven and earth. And, Peter spoke of this *twice*...

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

*30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that **God had sworn with an oath to him**, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne**:*

31 He seeing this before **spake of the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. [Ps 16:10]

32 This **Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God **exalted**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. [Ps 110:1]

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, **both Lord and Christ**.

Acts 2:29-36

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

30 The **God of our fathers raised up Jesus**, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

31 **Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour**, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:29-32

So, Peter summed up how God fulfilled His promise to David – through raising Jesus Christ (a descendant of David) from the dead and also raising Him to power, (exulting His name as well) over *all* things in heaven and on earth, as Paul also pointed out in his letter to the Philippians...

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore **God also hath highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, **of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth**;

11 And that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil 2:5-11

So, the Psalmist (Ethan) is reminding God of His promises to David, pretty much line-by-line (i.e. *exactly*) as God swore (by an oath) to David. And, God *did* indeed fulfill His promises

(through raising Jesus Christ from the dead), which the apostles well understood. Yet, that promise will *again* be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns to earth - with great power and glory – (Mark 13:26) so that *everyone* in heaven, in earth, and under the earth (the sea) (Phil 2:10) will be forced to bow a knee to Him *and* confess that He indeed is the King of kings and Lord of lords. So, it's quite amazing to see – when we 'search the scriptures' (2 Tim 2:15) - how God gave David some amazing promises, which this Psalmist *remembered*, and is *reminding* God of too. But, this Psalmist never lived to see those promises realized (i.e. the Messiah), which is what really confused him. He saw the glory of the kingdom under David and Solomon's rule but he then saw it decline. And that *seemed to be* in contradiction to God's promises, which is why he *reminds* God of His promises. However, it was *not at all* a contradiction. It was simply *not time* for the Messiah to come. And God *did* promise that if (when) Israel disobeyed Him that He would punish them for their sins (Lev 26, Deut 28). This included the kings that were descended from David as well (2 Sam 7:14, 1 Kings 2:4).

Psalm 89

25 I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.

Now, the word 'set' here means **to put** and it's used in a great variety of applications (literal, figurative, inferentially, and elliptically) (#7760). And the word 'hand' here means **a hand**, but it's *specifically* referring to the open one, which **indicates power, means, direction**, etc. (#3027). And then the word 'sea' here means **a sea** (as breaking in noisy surf) or **large body of water**; specifically (with the article), it refers to **the Mediterranean Sea** and sometimes **a large river**, or an **artificial basin**; and it can ever refer (locally) to **the west**, or (rarely) **the south** (#3220). And then the words 'right hand' means **the right hand** or **side** (leg, eye) of a person or other object (*as the stronger and more dexterous*); yet it too can also mean (locally) **the south** (#3225). And remember, in the Scriptures, the right hand (or arm) is often used (figuratively) for **power**. And then the word 'rivers' means **a stream (including the sea; expec. the Nile, Euphrates, etc.)**; and it can even mean, figuratively, **prosperity** (#5104). Moffet's translation is helpful in this verse, for it renders this verse as "***I will extend his power to the seat, and his authority far as the Euphrates***". So clearly, the Psalmist (Ethan) is reminding God that He promised David (in an *unconditional* covenant) to give power to David's descendants, through the form of territorial conquest. And God *did* promise this, in 2 Sam 7:16 when He promised David that, *thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever*. And, historically, this was fulfilled by Solomon, who extended Israel's territory even more than his father David, who had extended it more than it had *ever been before*. Solomon also built God a *physical* house (the permanent Temple), which was also in accordance to God's promise to David.

But, of course, this is also *prophetical* for the Messiah (Jesus Christ) who indeed is building God a house (the Body Christ, i.e. Jesus' eternal government) through the precious Holy Spirit, as

Hebrews 3, 2 Pt 2:5, Eph 2:10, Acts 15:14-18 and 1 Cor 3:9-17 all explain. For truly, *we are the Temple (house) of the Lord (YHVH)* when we believe in Jesus Christ *because of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us* (1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). Further, when Jesus Christ returns, His territory won't be merely in Palestine; it'll be *worldwide*, and even include heaven itself, as we read in Phil 2:5-11. But, Rev 11:15 also tells us that when the seventh trumpet sounds, *the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*. And, Eph 1:10 also tells us that, when Jesus Christ returns, He'll consolidate His power in heaven and on earth - for God has given Him power over *all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church*, which is the Body of Christ – Jesus' eternal government (Eph 1:20-22). Heb 2:8 also tells us that God has *put all in subjection under Jesus*, which is why every knee will bow to Him when Jesus returns and all will be forced to confess that He really is the King of kings and Lord of lords, both in heaven and on earth (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11; Phil 2:10). That's why *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad* (2 Cor 5:10). So, this promise the Psalmist (Ethan) is reminding God of His promise (to David) that Israel would have great dominion, even worldwide, *through the descendants of David*. But, during his later years he (Ethan) saw Israel's power declining *because they were not obeying God like David and Solomon (in his early and middle years) did*. So, that is why he's brining this up; but he's not done yet...

Psalm 89

26 He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

The subject of this verse is *still* the promises that God gave (unconditionally) to David. And, in this verse, the Psalmist (Ethan) is referring to 2 Sam 7:14 when God said to David (speaking of his descendant[s]) *I will be his father, and he shall be my son*. And the word '**cry**' here doesn't mean to weep. Rather, it means *to call out to* (i.e. properly, **address by name**, but used in a wide variety of applications) (#7121). And the word '**father**' means *a father* in a literal and immediate; but it can also be used in a *figurative* and *remote* application (#1). And then the word '**God**' here is the 'title' '**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 then the word '**rock**' here means a **cliff** (or sharp rock, as compressed); generally, **a rock** or **boulder**; figuratively, **a refuge**; also an **edge** (as precipitous) (#6697). And the word '**salvation**' is the Hebrew word *yeshuw` ah* (#3444) which means *something saved*, i.e. (abstractly) **deliverance**; hence, **aid, victory, prosperity**. It comes from one of the two prime roots (#3467) that Jesus' Greek name (#2424) comes from (#3091).

And there were *many* times when David called out to God Almighty for help; and he not only called Him his God (Ps 22:10, 31:14, 63:1, 118:28, 140:6, 143:10) but also often referred to the Lord (YHVH) as His Heavenly Father, i.e. creator of his soul and spirit (Ps 139), especially when referring to Him as '**Elohiym**' (#430). But David also (*many* times) called the Lord (YHVH) the rock of his salvation as well as his fortress, deliverer, strength, buckler, shield, high tower (Ps 18:2, 31, 46, 25:5, 27:1, 9, 28:1, 31:2-3, 38:22, 51:14, 61:3-4, 62:2, 62:6-8, 71:3, Ps 118:14, 21, etc., etc.). We've already seen this many times in our studies in the Psalms and will *continue* to see it in our studies in the Psalms. But, let's remember that David was a *type* for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Therefore, *Jesus Christ also fulfilled this verse*. For Jesus also referred to God as His Father - too many times to all be cited here - but chapters 10 and 14-17 in the Gospel of John are just *a few* examples. Jesus also referred to God as a rock in the analogy He gave in Matt 7:24-27. Deut 32:3 also calls God our Rock and 1 Cor 10:4 calls Jesus Christ our Rock. And, of course, Jesus also said that He came to *save* that which is lost (Matt 18:11) and explained *how much He cares for us* [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>] when He gave the example of how a man who has a hundred sheep will leave the others (safely in the sheep fold) and go searching for the lost one *till he finds it*. This indeed is what Jesus Christ did (Mth 10:6, John 10) which also fulfilled prophesy (Jer 23, Ezek 34).

Psalms 89

27 Also I will make him my firstborn, **higher** than the kings of the earth.

Now, the word '**firstborn**' does mean **firstborn** (as in the *firstborn* son) but, in the Hebrew, it can also mean **chief** (#1060), which it certainly does here *when speaking of David*. However, since David is a *type* for the Messiah (Jesus Christ), this verse is *also prophetic* of Jesus Christ, who was – literally – God's *firstborn* Son (Mth 1:18, 20; Lk 1:35; John 1:14; 1 John 4:9). In fact, Jesus was God's only *begotten* Son, as the famous John 3:16 Scripture points out, as well as Rom 8:29 and Col 1:15 and 18. And, as Isa 7:14 prophesied: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*. This word '**Immanuel**' in the Hebrew means **God with us** (#6005) and it was *fulfilled through Jesus Christ* (Matt 1:23). And then the word '**higher**' is also important to understand because it's the Hebrew word '**Elyown**' (sometimes spelled as '**Elyon**') (#5945), which means an **elevation**, i.e. (adj.) **lofty**. And, as title of God it means, **the Supreme**. He is the 'possessor of heaven and earth' (Gen 14:18-20), Who divides the nations 'their inheritance' (Deut 32:8). In Ps 83:18, He is 'over all the earth'. And this is yet another documentation that this verse is prophesy of Jesus Christ (Ps 2:7; Isa 9:6-7), which has been fulfilled *in part* (Eph 1:22-23) and will be *finalized* when Jesus Christ returns to earth (Rev 11:15) with a 'rod of iron' (Rev 19:15) as the KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:16). And this is *why* David's 'house', 'kingdom' and 'throne' *will be* established *forever*, as God promised him (2 Sam 7:16). And, because our Heavenly Father *cannot lie* (Titus 1:2) what He says **will come to pass**. So, it behooves us to humble ourselves to our Creator, repent for our sins and live the rest of our lives working to faithfully (and sincerely) serve the Lord God

Almighty (YHVH, 1 Peter 4:2). For as Rom 6:23 so profoundly declares, *the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord...*

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thess 5:6-9

We'll pick this up in part 8...

AMEN.