

Psalms Chapter 89 - Review

In chapter 89, part 1, we learned that this was the *last* chapter (Psalm 89) that is in the “Leviticus book” of the Psalms. And it was still part of the portion (chapters 84-89) that are concerning the ‘*Sanctuary in Relation to Yehovah*’ (instead of ‘*to man*’). And it had yet a different subject/title, which is: “*Instruction as to Blessing in the Sanctuary*”. And it was also another ‘*Mas’chil*’ Psalm (i.e. a Psalm of ‘understanding’ and ‘instruction’) but, this time, it was 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*.

In part 2 we read how the Psalmist (Ethan) gave our Heavenly Father the ‘*ultimate* praise’ for His *great* faithfulness in keeping His Word; *especially* His *unconditional* promises to David (as we learned of in part 1). And Ethan praised the Lord (YHWH) mostly by using a figure of speech (*Erotesis*, apx 6), which is asking questions *to make a point* (not for an answer or information). It’s much like what we call a ‘rhetorical question’ today. And he thus pointed out that there is *no one* on earth, or in heaven, that can be compared to our Heavenly Father. And Ethan also used several ‘titles’ for our Heavenly Father (the Lord God of Hosts, ‘El, ‘Elohyim and ‘Yah’) to ‘point out’ 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 our *only* way to live *eternally* (our only Savior). Truly, there’s no one – in heaven or earth – who is as righteous (holy), just, fair, loving, strong and faithful (full of truth) than the Lord (YHWH) is. Therefore, it’s wise for us to sincerely love, fear (revere), *and obey* Him *because* He leads us in ‘*the path*’ to *eternal* life (Deut 11:22).

In part 3 we saw the Psalmist (Ethan) continue to praise our Heavenly Father by pointing out that He (alone) owns – and thus has *total* power over – *all* of His creation (heaven, the earth, the sea and all that is within them). And, therefore, even the mighty sea and unruly waves are easy for Him to still, which Jesus proved when He literally calmed a terribly stormy sea with just *three words*. And that *fact* not only distinguishes the Lord (YHVH) from all of His creation, but it is also one of the primary *reasons* that we *should* worship *Him* (and Him *only*). For, without our Heavenly Father, we would not even exist! And the Psalmist (Ethan) continued to praise the Lord (YHVH) by pointing out how He conquered Egypt (referred to as Rahab, which is a nickname for Egypt), which was one of the mightiest nations at the time. And that proved He *is* able to scatter *all* His enemies; for His ‘right arm’ (Jesus Christ) is stronger *than anyone else*. And Ethan also pointed out that, not only has our Heavenly Father created all things (for His pleasure, Rev 4:11), He also *cares* for His creation *more than anyone else*.

In part 4 we saw the Psalmist continue to praise our Heavenly Father for *who* He is and *what* He has done for us. And that’s why he then pointed out that the Lord (YHVH) has a *very* mighty arm and His ‘right hand’ is *very* strong and high. Of course, His ‘right hand’ (and arm) is Jesus Christ (the Messiah) who *mightily* saves us from our sins (bondage to Satan, Heb 2:14). And that’s why the Psalmist then went on to explain *how* our Heavenly Father rules (governs). He is *not* partial in judgment and He won’t let anything, or anyone, cause Him to pervert judgment either. He judges according to His perfect Laws and only gives mercy to those who truly deserve it, *because* they’ve made a *sincere* repentance and are *truly* trying to change their sinful heart and ways. And that’s why mercy and truth are a pivotal part of how He rules too. For, once we’ve been given mercy (forgiven our sins) we must put truth into our inner man (heart and mind) *so we don’t go back to* sinning habitually (willfully, rebelliously). And that’s really the Gospel in a nutshell. But, the Psalmist (Ethan) also pointed out that, those who know the ‘joyful sound’ (of the trumpets blowing at the feast days) are truly happy *because* they walk in the light of the Lord’s (YHVH’s) countenance (i.e. His Holy Spirit). This essentially means that, those who are in a covenantal relationship with the Lord (via Jesus Christ, which the feast days all looked forward to) enjoy great peace of mind, joy and happiness *because* their heart is right with God and they’ve been forgiven their sins. And, when we truly trust in the Lord (YHVH), we also are freed from the bondage of fear (as well as sin). So, it truly is *a joy* to serve the Lord (via Jesus Christ). For doing so not only gives us peace, protection and comfort in this wicked world, but the end result will be to obtain *eternal* life. But living for the fleshly pleasures only brings misery (and tormenting lusts) in this life and, eventually, will be the demise of our very soul and spirit (eternal death).

In part 5 we saw the Psalmist continue to praise the Lord (YHVH) by continuing to explain *who* He is and *what* He’s like. And he thus pointed out that we truly have *nothing* to glory about within our self. That’s because (of a truth), *the only ‘good thing’ within us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit*. And that’s why the Lord (YHVH) *is* ‘the glory of our strength’. It is His Words,

and Holy Spirit, *being within us* that gives us the strength, and understanding, we need to obey (serve) Him faithfully. And that's what causes Him to show us favor *and* give us His protection, blessings and even power. That's why it'll *only* be those who *remain faithful* servants to Him that inherit the earth – i.e. be allowed to serve in Jesus Christ's eternal government. And that's also who will receive *eternal* life (the first resurrection - Rev 20:4-6). Yet, even before then He gives us power to serve Him in whatever capacity He chooses us to do so. And while there are many wicked people who still have power on earth, He allows this only to fulfill the negative part of His plan of salvation; which is to test His children to see who will turn to Him in a good repentance (and serve Him) versus those who won't. In other words, He's using this flesh life to separate those who are salvageable from those who are incorrigible. So, by the time Jesus Christ returns, a complete separation will have been made, so Jesus' angels can easily separate them for the Millennial rule and teaching period. And we also learned that, when we remain faithful to our Heavenly Father (YHVH) He'll *always* defend us, because we are *His* servants and He loves us *dearly*. And, He's not *only* the King (and Holy One) of Israel, but *all* who believe in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26-29).

In part 6 we saw the Psalmist again remind the Lord (YHVH) of His *unconditional* promises He made to David. But this time, he gave *much more* detail than he did in verses 2-4. That's why he began by pointing out that the Lord (YHVH) 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 (YHVH) *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, YHVH). 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*.

In part 7 we learned more about how our Heavenly Father's *unconditional* promises to David *and* also how He *kept* them. The Lord (YHVH) promised that His faithfulness (to the truth, His promises) and His mercy (kindness) would *always* be with David (and his descendants who obeyed Him). And, through the Lord's mighty name (honor, authority and character) David (and

his descendants who obeyed Him) horn (power) *would* be exalted. Thus, we also learned God promised to extend David's power (and his descendants who obeyed Him) far and wide. And we saw that this indeed came to pass as David and Solomon acquired more territory than Israel ever had before - *and* ever would *until* Jesus Christ returns. For when Jesus Christ returns, He'll not only take over *all* the earth; His total power on earth will be *consolidated* with His total power He *already* has in heaven. And the Psalmist also pointed out that David would call out to God and even call Him his Father, his God and the Rock of his salvation. And this is something David did a lot, as our studies in the Psalms has already revealed. Yet, this was also *prophetical* of Jesus Christ, and it *did* come to pass through His life. And lastly, we also saw the Psalmist point out that God promised to make David his 'chief' servant, who would be higher than all the kings of the earth. Indeed, David was given a great name higher than all other kings on earth (2 Sam 7:9) and Solomon's name was ever greater due to the wisdom God gave him. And again, this also came to pass, through Jesus Christ, who was indeed God's 'firstborn' (i.e. chief) and His name *IS* higher than all principalities and powers in heaven; and when He returns, His name *will also be* higher than *all* the kings of the earth too. And this Psalmist (Ethan) is reminding God of these (unconditional) promises *because of* the decline in his country (Israel) that he witnessed in his later years, when this Psalm was written.

In part 8 we learned more about God's *unconditional* promises He made to David, and *how He kept them*. And, as He warned David and Solomon, He *did* have to chastise their descendants (and the rest of Israel too) because they *did* forsake His Laws (all parts of it), *did not* walk in His judgments (court verdicts), *broke* His Statutes (laws of national administration) and *did not* keep (guard and protect) His Commandments (laws pertaining to individual conduct). And *that's why* He 'visited' them for their sins; meaning He *punished them* in hopes they would repent. In fact, much of the prophetical books in the Bible are warnings for the northern kingdom of Israel, and/or the southern kingdom of Judah, to repent for their ways so He would *not* have to chastise them. But, as Prov 13:24 points out, *he that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*. Therefore, our Heavenly Father *did* faithfully chastise them for their sins. And eventually, this meant they were cast out of the Promise Land; first the northern tribes (by the Assyrians) and then the southern tribes (by the Babylonians). But, even though He chastised His people, He still never broke His *unconditional* covenant to David, nor to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel.

In part 9 we learned that, even though God promised to chastise David's descendants if (when) they disobeyed Him, that did not alter (change) God's *unconditional* promises to Him. His mercy and faithfulness to fulfill those precious promises to David *would never fail*. And that's because, when God swears something, He *will* perform it. Our Heavenly Father *is faithful* to His Word! Therefore, David's 'seed' (posterity) *does* endure forever. Not only in the aspect that there are still many of his descendants *alive today* - but also in the aspect that there's even some of them sitting as kings over Israel, *still yet today* (such as Great Britain, for example). And this will

remain until the *true* promised ‘Seed’ (Jesus Christ - who *does* have *eternal* life) returns to rule on David’s throne (over *all* of Israel) *forevermore*. And God even gave examples of how faithfully the sun, moon and stars have continued to abide in the heavens – in their perfect order throughout all time – to show how the promises He made to David *will come to pass*. In other words, just as the sun, moon and stars come up and go down (each and every day and night) so will David always have a descendant to rule over the tribes of Israel, *forever*. And this will be fulfilled, *eternally*, through Jesus Christ.

In part 10 we learned about God’s ‘visitation’ to Israel, specifically the southern kingdom of Judah when Rehoboam was king (when this Psalm was likely written). And that simply means the Psalmist (Ethan) was explaining the judgments that God brought upon Israel *for disobeying Him*. By withdrawing His protective ‘hedge’ from them, He allowed their enemies (particularly the king of Egypt) to invade, and plunder, them. And, not only was this *humiliating* to the nation – that afore time never lost their battles *because* they obeyed the Lord – but it was also very *financially* painful. For even the king lost all that was in his treasury and, sadly, even the Lord’s Temple treasury was looted too. And even though their armies had *tried* to defend the nation, they lost *so badly* it was as if they were fighting with the *blunt* side of their sword; for they simply didn’t have the vigor to fight well. Yet, in all this the Lord still *never* broke His *unconditional* covenant with David; it only *seemed* like it to the Psalmist, for he’d never seen Israel loose like that, let alone be invaded and plundered. But David’s grandson, Rehoboam, was *still* allowed to be on the throne of Israel (the southern kingdom of Judah), even though he did have to pay tribute to the king of Egypt. Thus, the Lord (YHWH) showed how He is fully capable of chastising His people *and still* keeping His *unconditional* promises to David, as well as Abraham, Issac and Jacob.

In part 11 we again saw the Psalmist (Ethan) lament for the ‘judgments’ (chastisements) that came upon Israel (the southern kingdom of Judah). And he used a common figure of speech (*Erotosis*, apx 6) to express his deep lamentation for the way Israel had been terribly defeated in war, which was not only incredibly humiliating for them but also financially painful. And he also reminded God how short our flesh life really is *because* his time to die was surely soon to come as he wrote this Psalm. And he *really* wanted to see the blessings of the Lord (YHWH) return to Israel *before* he died. And he (Ethan) felt the pain of his nation being invaded, degraded and terribly reproached (made fun of) *deeply in his heart* (bosom). That’s why he kept reminding God of His *unconditional* promises to David. He had a hard time understanding *why* all these ‘bad things’ *continue* to happen when the Lord has promised such great things to David. But the truth was that, God’s mercy *had not gone anywhere*, nor had His faithfulness to His Word. For, just as He was faithful to bless Israel when they obeyed Him, so too was He faithful to chasten them when they disobeyed Him (Lev 26, Deut 28). And, as Moses pointed out (Heb 8:5) God is faithful to chasten us, and that’s *because* He loves us (Heb 12). So, the Lord truly was being ‘merciful’ in chastening Israel; for had He not done so, the consequences would have been *way*

worse. And truly, God did not forget His Covenant with David. For, David's grandson, Rehoboam, was *still* on the throne ruling over *some* of the tribes (Judah and Benjamin). This in itself was done *specifically* to keep His oath to David, as God pointed out in 1 Kings 11:12-13. So, God's former mercies, and oath, to David *had not gone anywhere*. They were, in fact, *being fulfilled* because Rehoboam was *still* on the throne of Israel (the southern kingdom) and Israel *was still* a nation; just not as powerful as they once were.

And, even though much of this Psalm was lamentation (and reminding God of His promises to David), this great 'Mas-chil' Psalm ended on a note of hope, with a declaration of praise for the 'Lord', *Yehovah*. It also ended with a benediction (blessing) and a double 'AMEN' (which means faithfulness, a common theme Ethan kept reminding God about throughout this great Psalm), which was quite a befitting way to end this great 'Mas-chil' Psalm. For, this great Psalm has taught not only how to *remember* God's promises, but also *how to remind* Him of them! And it also taught us how the Lord is able to be *faithful* to both His *unconditional* promises (David, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel) and *conditional* promises (Israel) *at the same time*. ***He perfectly balances chastising His children with keeping His promises to them as well.*** And, even though it was hard for the Psalmist to understand at the time he wrote this, it's quite clear to us living today, simply because we have the *history* that *proves* God was not unfaithful to His *unconditional* promise to David, nor to Abraham, Isaac nor Jacob/Israel. Further, He wasn't even unfaithful to His *conditional* promises with all of Israel. When Israel sinned, He poured out the curings - more and more so the more they sinned. But, when they repented and turned back to Him (sincerely tried to do what's right) He then blessed them – which was *perfectly in line* with His promises laid out in Lev 26 and Deut 28. And *that's* what should give us *great* confidence that He will *always* be faithful to **all** of His promises, as well as to His prophesies of things *yet to come*...

35 Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which **hath great recompence of reward**.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, **after** ye have **done the will of God**, ye might **receive the promise**.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition**; but **of them that believe to the saving of the soul**.

Heb 10:35-39

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.

Ps 113:2

AMEN, AMEN!