

Sunday Night Message

May 3, 2015

Psalm 89

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 89

Introduction

Maschil – this is the second to the last use of this word, which is found 13 times and only in the psalms. It is defined as a poem or song of contemplation. It comes from a root word that means to ponder or consider. Some have said that these Psalms are particularly intended to give instruction.

Ethan – Solomon was compared to this man in 1 Kings 4:29 – 31:

"And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about." (1 Kings 4:29-31)

The context of this psalm could very likely be the invasion of Shishak, the Egyptian during the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. (See 2 Chronicles 12).

This psalm emphasizes the faithfulness of God, which is referenced ten times. You will also note four references to the "covenant". Which covenant? The one that God made with David, which promised that his seed would forever sit on the throne of Israel. (See 2 Samuel 7:1 – 17)

"And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven, And said, O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts: Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their

way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me. Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David."
(2 Chronicles 6:12-17)

Notice also – “I have sworn” is mentioned 3 times, and “I will not lie” is mentioned 4 times.

Psalm 88 is all doom and gloom. This psalm is about two thirds praise and adoration for the power, principles, and promises of God. When we reach verse 38, however, we realize that the psalmist is claiming this promise in the midst of a serious national test. Judah had rebelled against God, and was experiencing God’s chastisement, but was also trusting in the fact that God promised deliverance.

The practical application that we all need to take away from this psalm is that God will always do what He says He will do. He may not do it on your timetable, but every promise of God will be fulfilled 100% in His time.

Some of the promises are conditional.

He says that he will supply all of your need:

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:1)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Many are unconditional to the believer.

He says that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

He says that He will come back for us.

He says that He will take us to Heaven when we die.

He says that Israel will once again be a world power.

He says that He will put all evil down.

He says that He will make a new Heaven and a new Earth.

These are all promises that God has made, and we can trust that He will keep them.

I The Power of God is Revered (vs. 1 – 18)

Notice in vs. 1 and 2 the references to God's faithfulness. The word literally means fidelity, firmness, or steadiness.

Notice the references to God's power. God's power is important, because it speaks of His ability to back up what He promises.

Some people would be faithful to do what they promise, but they lack the ability. They cannot back up what they promise, but God is faithful and powerful.

II The Promise of God is Remembered (vs. 3 & 4, 19 – 37)

It is very important to remember that the promise of God referred to in this psalm also includes the promise of chastisement for the nation if it chose to forsake the law of God. (vs. 30 – 33)

III The Punishment of God is Received (vs. 38 – 52)

The nation was experiencing the chastisement that God had promised. The psalmist could rejoice because he knew that God would not judge them out of existence, but he still asked God to be merciful and turn the nation (and the judgment) around quickly.