

I Cry Out Day and Night Before You (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 88

**A Song or Psalm for the sons of Korah,
to the chief Musician upon Mahalath Leannoth,
Maschil of Heman the Ezrahite.**

- 1 O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day *and* night before thee:
- 2 Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;
- 3 For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.
- 4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man *that hath* no strength:
- 5 Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand.
- 6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.
- 7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted *me* with all thy waves. Selah.
- 8 Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: *I am* shut up, and I cannot come forth.
- 9 Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.
- 10 Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise *and* praise thee? Selah.
- 11 Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? *or* thy faithfulness in destruction?
- 12 Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
- 13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.
- 14 LORD, why castest thou off my soul? *why* hidest thou thy face from me?
- 15 *I am* afflicted and ready to die from *my* youth up: *while* I suffer thy terrors I am distracted.
- 16 Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off.
- 17 They came round about me daily like water; they compassed me about together.
- 18 Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, *and* mine acquaintance into darkness.

I Will Sing of the Steadfast Love of the Lord [Messianic] (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 89

Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- 1 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.
- 3 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,
- 4 Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.
- 5 And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints.
- 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?
- 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.
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, *who is* a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?
- 9 Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.
- 10 Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.
- 11 The heavens *are* thine, the earth also *is* thine: *as for* the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them.
- 12 The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.
- 13 Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, *and* high is thy right hand.
- 14 Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.
- 15 Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.
- 16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.
- 17 For thou *art* the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted.
- 18 For the LORD *is* our defense; and the Holy One of Israel *is* our king.
- 19 Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is* mighty; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: [\[Acts 13:22\]](#)
- 21 With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him.
- 23 And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.
- 24 But my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.
- 27 Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.
- 28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

29 His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.
30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;
31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;
32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.
33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.
34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.
35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.
36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.
37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.
38 But thou hast cast off and abhorred, thou hast been wroth with thine anointed.
39 Thou hast made void the covenant of thy servant: thou hast profaned his crown *by casting it* to the ground.
40 Thou hast broken down all his hedges; thou hast brought his strong holds to ruin.
41 All that pass by the way spoil him: he is a reproach to his neighbors.
42 Thou hast set up the right hand of his adversaries; thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice.
43 Thou hast also turned the edge of his sword, and hast not made him to stand in the battle.
44 Thou hast made his glory to cease, and cast his throne down to the ground.
45 The days of his youth hast thou shortened: thou hast covered him with shame. Selah.
46 How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?
47 Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain?
48 What man *is he that* liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.
49 Lord, where *are* thy former loving-kindnesses, *which* thou swarest unto David in thy truth?
50 Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; *how* I do bear in my bosom *the reproach of* all the mighty people;
51 Wherewith thine enemies have reproached, O LORD; wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of thine anointed.
52 Blessed *be* the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.

Chronological Notes

- 1) Heman the Ezrahite and Ethan the Ezrahite both authored psalms (88–89). Heman was the founder of the choir known as “the sons of Korah,” and was famed for his wisdom (1 Kgs 4:31). Ezrahite was evidently an equivalent of Zerahite, a clan of Judah (1 Chr 2:6), although Heman was also a Levite, with Ephraimite connections (1 Chr 6:33; cf. 1 Sam 1:1). These links, possibly adoptive, between Levi and other tribes, if the Heman of 1 Chronicles 2:6 is rightly identified with the Korahite founder, are not unparalleled: cf. Judges 17:7 and the subsequent affiliations of the Levite in question. Ethan is probably identical with Jeduthun, who founded one of the three choirs (cf. 1 Chr 15:19; 2 Chr 5:12). Ethan shared with Heman a reputation for wisdom, and membership of the same Judahite clan.¹ I have dated these psalms as “c. David/Solomon” to indicate that they were likely written during the reign of David or Solomon.

¹ Derek J. Kidner, “Psalms 1–72,” *TOTC*, 49