

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

Psalm 88

A song. A psalm of the sons of Korah.

For the music director; according to Mahalath Leannoth.

A maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.

- 1 O Yahweh, God of my salvation,
I cry out by day *and* through the night before you.
- 2 Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
- 3 For my soul is full with troubles,
and my life approaches Sheol.
- 4 I am reckoned with *those* descending to *the* pit.
I am like a man without strength,
set free among the dead,
like *the* slain lying in *the* grave,
whom you no longer remember,
even those cut off from your hand.
- 6 You have set me in *the* pit below,
in dark places, in *the* depths.
- 7 Your wrath presses upon me,
and you afflict *me with* all your waves. *Selah*
- 8 You have removed my acquaintances far from me.
You have made me detestable to them. *I am* confined and cannot go out.
- 9 My eye languishes from misery.
I call on you, O Yahweh, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.
- 10 Do you work wonders for the dead?
Or do *the* departed spirits rise up *to* praise you? *Selah*
- 11 Is your loyal love told in the grave,
or your faithfulness in the underworld?
- 12 Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in *the* land of forgetfulness?
- 13 But as for me, I cry for help to you, O Yahweh,
and in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 14 Why do you reject my soul, O Yahweh?
Why do you hide your face from me?
- 15 *I am* afflicted and perishing from *my* youth.
I bear your terrors. I am distraught.
- 16 Your burning anger has passed over me;
your sudden fears have destroyed me.
- 17 They surround me like water all the day;
they circle about me altogether.
- 18 You have removed loved one and friend far from me,
my acquaintances *far from my* darkness.

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

Psalm 89

A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- 1 I will sing forever of Yahweh's acts of loyal love.
From generation to generation
I will make known your faithfulness with my mouth.
- 2 For I say, "Forever *your* loyal love is built up.
The heavens you have established *with* your faithfulness in them."
- 3 "I made a covenant with my chosen one;
I swore *an oath* to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your descendants forever,

and I will build up your throne from generation to generation.” *Selah*

5 And *so the* heavens will praise your wonderful deed, O Yahweh,
even your faithfulness, in *the* assembly of *the* holy ones.

6 For who in the sky is equal to Yahweh?
Who is like Yahweh among the sons of God,
7 a God feared greatly in the council of *the* holy ones,
and awesome above all surrounding him?

8 O Yahweh God *of* hosts,
who *is* mighty like you, O Yah,
with your faithfulness surrounding you?

9 You are ruling the surging of the sea.
When its waves rise, you yourself still them.

10 You yourself crushed Rahab like one *who is* slain;
you scattered your enemies with your strong arm.

11 *The* heavens are yours, *the* earth yours as well,
the world with its fullness, *because* you founded them.

12 North and south, you created them;
Tabor and Hermon shout joyfully over your name.

13 You have a mighty arm;
Your hand is strong; your right hand reaches high.

14 Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of your throne.
Loyal love and faithfulness come before your face.

15 Blessed *are* the people who know *the* joyful shout;
O Yahweh, they walk about in the light of your countenance.

16 In your name they rejoice all the day,
and in your righteousness they rise up.

17 For you *are* the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our horn rises up,
18 because our shield belongs to Yahweh,
and our king to the Holy One of Israel.

19 Formerly you spoke in a vision
to your faithful ones, and said,
“I have bestowed help on a mighty man;
I have exalted one chosen from *the* people.

20 I have found David, my servant.
With my holy oil I have anointed him, [[Acts 13:22](#)]

21 with whom my hand will be steadfast.
Surely my arm will strengthen him.

22 *The* enemy will not deceive him,
and no evil man will afflict him.

23 But I will crush his adversaries before him,
and I will strike those who hate him.

24 And *so* my faithfulness
and my loyal love *will be* with him,
and in my name his horn will rise up.

25 And I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

26 He will call out *to* me, ‘You *are* my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

27 I will also make him *the* firstborn,
the highest of *the* kings of *the* earth.

28 Forever I will keep my loyal love for him,
and my covenant *will be* reliable for him.

29 I will also establish his offspring forever,
and his throne as *the* days of *the* heavens.

30 If his sons forsake my law
and do not walk in my judgments,
31 if they defile my statutes

and do not keep my commandments,
32 then I will punish their transgression with a rod,
and their guilt with wounds.
33 But I will not break off my loyal love from him,
and I will not be false against my faithfulness.
34 I will not defile my covenant,
or alter what proceeded from my lips.
35 Once I have sworn by my holiness,
'I will surely not lie to David,
36 His offspring will endure forever,
and his throne as the sun before me.
37 Like *the* moon it will be steadfast forever,
and *like* an enduring witness in the sky.'" *Selah*
38 But you have spurned and rejected;
you are very angry with your anointed one.
39 You have repudiated the covenant with your servant;
you have defiled his crown in the dirt.
40 You have broken down all his walls;
you have made his fortifications a ruin.
41 All passing along *the* road plunder him;
he has become a taunt to his neighbors.
42 You have raised the right hand of his adversaries.
You have made all his enemies rejoice.
43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword
and have not helped him stand *his ground* in the battle.
44 You have made his splendor to cease,
and cast his throne to the ground.
45 You have cut short the days of his youth;
you have covered him with shame. *Selah*
46 How long, O Yahweh? Will you hide yourself forever?
Will your wrath burn like fire *forever*?
47 Remember what my lifespan *is*.
Remember for what vanity
you have created all *the* children of humankind.
48 What man can live *on* and not see death?
Can he deliver his life from the power of Sheol? *Selah*
49 Where *are* your former acts of loyal love, O Lord,
that you swore to David by your faithfulness?
50 Remember, O Lord the taunting of your servants,
how I bear in my bosom *the taunts of* all *the* many peoples,
51 *by* which your enemies taunt, O Yahweh,
by which they taunt the steps of your anointed one.
52 Blessed be Yahweh forever.
Amen and Amen.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible](#) (LEB). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

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