

May 17 Answers

- 1) The psalms of Heman and Ethan. Heman was a **singer** in the choir known as “the sons of Korah” (cf. 1 Chr 6:31–33; 2 Chr 5:11–12), and he was famous for his **wisdom** (1 Kgs 4:31). Heman wrote Psalm 88, a **lament** psalm in which the speaker cries out day and night before God. This psalm is unique, for it is the only psalm in the Psalter that has no shift to **thanksgiving**, no vow of praise, and no expression of **hope**. However, woven throughout the psalm are clues that the speaker knows God to be good and merciful. God is “the God of my **salvation**” (v. 1), God “works wonders” (v. 10), God has “steadfast love” (v. 11), and God is faithful and righteous (vv. 11–12). This psalm teaches us that even when we’re discouraged and depressed, we can **call** out to God. God will hear our cry and show Himself faithful. Ethan the Ezrahite was also famous for his wisdom. He wrote Psalm 89, a psalm that celebrates God’s **covenant** with David and praises God for His mighty power. Toward the end, the psalm shifts abruptly from praise to **sadness**, and it speaks of a time when the king suffered humiliation: “But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed. You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust” (Ps 89:38–39). It is uncertain whether this was a reference to David’s humiliation at the hands of **Absalom** or a **prophecy** of some future trouble which would come to Judah’s king. In either case, the psalm ends by asking God to remember His lovingkindness and faithfulness to David. This psalm teaches us to put our confidence in God. When circumstances seems to **contradict** God’s promise, we can rest assured that what God has said will come to pass (Ps 89:34–36).