

Psalm 87

1 A Psalm or Song for the sons of Korah. His foundation is in the holy mountains. 2 The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. 3 Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

4 I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. 5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. 6 The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

7 As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.

Introduction:

1. "A Psalm or Song for the sons of Korah" – Psalm (instrumental) and Song (vocal).
2. Two divisions set apart by "Selah" and v.7 is a liturgical note.

Outline:

- A. The Glory of Zion (vv.1-3)
- B. The Citizens of Zion (v.4-6)
- C. The Liturgical Note (v.7)

Observations:

1. Short but theologically powerful Psalm.
2. Speaks of the Millennial Kingdom, and the necessity of being born-again (v.5).

Lesson: Ye Must Be Born Again.

Psalm 88

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

Introduction:

1. "A Song or Psalm for the sons of Korah"
2. "To the chief Musician" (Heman/Ethan/Asaph)
3. "upon Mahalath Leannoth" – Musical or Instrumental title meaning "looking down."
4. Maschil of Heman – Maschil means meditation or understanding. A Psalm of instruction.
5. Heman was an Ezrahite – (1 Kings 4:31; 1 Chr. 2:6; 15:17) – he was brother to Ethan.

Outline:

- A. Invocation (vv.1-2)
- B. His Present Condition (vv.3-8)
- C. His Urgent Petition (vv.9-12)
- D. His Dark Conclusion (vv.13-18)

Observations:

1. This is called the "darkest" of all the Psalms.
2. God puts in His songbook the hopelessness of man. The Bible is authentic – unlike any other book.
3. Sorrow and despair are given words.
4. The Psalmists still calls out and prays unto God – evidence of faith.

Lesson: Even in the darkest of times – we can pray and commune with God.