

Evening Sermon Outline – January 24, 2021

“Contemplating the David Covenant” Psalm 89

A Contemplation of Ethan the Ezrahite.

I. When getting to “forever” seems to take forever

¹ I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. ² For I have said, “Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.” ³ “I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ⁴ ‘Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.’ ” Selah Psalm 89:1-4 (NKJV)

In the first three verse of this Psalm, Ethan the Ezrahite, uses the word forever, three times:

1. In regard to singing about God’s mercies forever - :1
2. In believing God’s mercy will be built up forever – :2
3. In relation to God’s covenant promise to David, ⁴ ‘Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.’

This is the theme of the Psalm, Ethan the Ezrahite, is grasping by faith to God’s promised mercy, that David would have his seed on the throne “FOREVER” despite the fact it seems to seem to Ethan, that this promise was broken!

4. Four more times in this Psalm, for a total of seven times, seven being the number of God’s completion and perfect, the number of His coming Kingdom, according to the Book of Revelation. Four more times in relation to this Covenant Promise to David, for a total of SEVEN TIMES –

²⁸ My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him. ²⁹ His seed also I will make to endure forever, And his throne as the days of heaven. Psalm 89:28–29 (NKJV)

³⁶ His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;

³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah Psalm 89:36–37 (NKJV)

5. Yet, Ethan the Ezrahite uses FOREVER one more time in this Psalm, not to praise, but to complain –
⁴⁶ How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire? Psalm 89:46 (NKJV)

In the first 37 verses of this Psalm Ethan is walking by faith, not by sight! Walking on water you might say, like Peter! However, also like Peter, when he feels the wind and waves of trouble beating on him, he sinks!

II. When getting to forever seems to take forever, Praise the LORD anyway –

1. The heavens praise God, His wonders, meaning Heavenly creatures do this –

⁵ And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; ... Psalm 89:5 A

We see this in Revelation 4 –

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

Perfect wonderful creatures, in a perfect wonderful place (the throne room of God) praise God perfectly, effortlessly, tirelessly ..

2. We praise God in church, when we are gathered with the saints -

Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. Psalm 89:5 B

3. We praise God for a multitude of REASONS:

A. He is incomparable -

⁶ For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? Psalm 89:6

B. He is to be feared, held in reverence -

⁷ God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. Psalm 89:7

C. He is Mighty and faithful, as God of Hosts He controls everything -

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, Who *is* mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. ⁹ You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. Psalm 89:8-9

D. He beat Egypt when Egypt was proudest -

¹⁰ You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. Psalm 89:10

E. He owns everything, because He created everything -

¹¹ The heavens *are* Yours, the earth also *is* Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. ¹² The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name. Psalm 89:11-12

Tabor and Hermon are both mountains, I remember my first time seeing mountains in Colorado ...

F. He is strong, He is righteous, we are blessed to know Him and have the favor of His strength -

¹³ You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, *and* high is Your right hand. ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. ¹⁵ Blessed *are* the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. ¹⁶ In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted. ¹⁷ For You *are* the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn is exalted. Psalm 89:13-17

III. When getting to forever seems to take forever, let your praise turn into a grasping of, and reminding God of, His precious promises -

¹⁸ For our shield *belongs* to the LORD, And our king to the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁹ Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, And said: “I have given help to *one who is* mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰ I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him, ²¹ With whom My hand shall be established; Also My arm shall strengthen him. ²² The enemy shall not outwit him, Nor the son of

wickedness afflict him. ²³ I will beat down his foes before his face, And plague those who hate him. ²⁴ “But My faithfulness and My mercy *shall be* with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted. ²⁵ Also I will set his hand over the sea, And his right hand over the rivers. ²⁶ He shall cry to Me, ‘You *are* my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.’ ²⁷ Also I will make him *My* firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸ My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him. ²⁹ His seed also I will make *to endure* forever, And his throne as the days of heaven. (*This part :28-29 is clearly about Jesus*) ³⁰ “If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments, ³¹ If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments, ³² Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. (*These punished politicians are who Ethan the Ezrahite is under, and he is paying for this*) ³³ Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. ³⁴ My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. ³⁵ Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: ³⁶ His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; ³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah Psalm 89:18-37

IV. When getting to forever seems to take forever, and you praised God and remembered His promises, you may also share you pains in your prayers – Read Psalm 89:38-51 Plus –

⁵² Blessed *be* the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen. Psalm 89:52

*“Before the winds that blow do cease, Teach me to dwell within Thy calm:
Before the pain has passed in peace, Give me, my God, to sing a psalm.
Let me not lose the chance to prove The fullness of enabling love.*

*Before I leave the desert land For meadows of immortal flowers,
Lead me where streams at Thy command Flow by the borders of the hours,
That when the thirsty come, I may Show them the fountains in the way.
(Amy Carmichael, Rose from Brier)*

We are not like the four living creatures, perfect, powerful, created for nearness to God’s throne. Yet, we praise from pain, weakness, from darkness and distance, with PRAYERS of faith, not sight, for strength and wisdom from above!

Arnold Brevick