

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023 ▫ Read Psalm 89:1–18**

Questions from the Scripture text: Whose song of instruction (where NKJ says “contemplation”) is this (superscript)? What does he sing that he will do (v1a)? Of what will he sing? Whose? For how long? What will this singing do (v1b)? To whom? What shall be built up (v2a)? For how long? What will God establish (v2b)? Where? What has the Lord made (v3a)? With whom? Who is this chosen one (v3b)? What will God do for David (v4, cf. 2Sam 7:11–13)? What offer praise in v5a? What do they praise? What else do they praise (v5b)? Where? What does v6a ask? What is the expected answer? How does v6b ask the question? How does the assembly of these others think of/treat the Lord (v7)? How does v8a–b ask the question? What data point does v8c add? What is it that only Yahweh can do (v9, cf. Mark 4:39–41!)? What has He done to Egypt (“Rahab,” v10a)? And to whom else (v10b)? What belong to the Lord in v11a? And what within them (v11b)? How does v12a restate this? How does v12b express the height of this ownership? What attribute does v13 praise? What attribute does v14b praise? What pair of attributes, commonly held together, does v14b praise (cf. Ex 34:6, Jn 1:14)? Who are the happiest people (v15a)? What is their living like (v15b)? What do they do, when (v16a)? What raises them up (v16b)? What (Who!) is the glory of their strength (v17a)? How is their strongest faculty raised up (v17b)? What, of theirs, belongs to Whom (v18)?

**What is the believer’s greatest happiness?** Psalm 89:1–18 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these eighteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the believer’s greatest happiness is God Himself—and that God has given Himself in Christ to be both their salvation and their reward.**

What is heaven like? What is eternal blessedness like? The first four verses of Psalm 89 make it clear that it is answering this question. The singing is forever (v1a). The declaration of praise is to all generations (v1b). The building up of covenant love is forever (v2a). The provision of faithfulness is in the heavens (v2b). The provision of the Christ King is forever (v4a). The building up of His throne is to all generations (v4b). This is a Psalm about joining now that praise that will be forever in heaven.

Heaven is not like a highly refined version of earthly pleasure, or an exceeding quantity of earthly pleasure.

It is altogether different. The Lord Himself, is the pleasure of heaven.

- In heaven, we find the throne of Christ forever (v3–4).
- In heaven, we find the worship assembly of the saints (v5, 7).
- In heaven, we find the incomparable glory of God (v6, 8).
- In heaven, we find that Christ has this very glory that belongs to none other than God (v9). No wonder the disciples were more terrified of the One Who stilled the storm than they had been of the storm itself (cf. Mk 4:39–41)!
- In heaven, we find no enemies, for they have all been conquered and destroyed (v10).
- In heaven, we find that all things (v11a)—in every part (v11b), to the distant riches (v12a), and the greatest heights (v12b)—all things are from God and to God and through God, and to Him belongs all the glory!
- In heaven, we find the praise of the character of God: His power (v13); His righteousness (v14a); His covenant love and faithfulness (v14b). This is that glory in which He abounds (cf. Ex 34:6). This is that glory which we behold most of all in Christ Himself (cf. Jn 1:14) as the brightness of His glory (cf. Heb 1:3).
- Finally, in heaven, we find a people especially suited to heaven. What makes them happy (“blessed” in NKJV) is the joyful sound of all this praise (v15a). Their whole life is an enjoying of the shining of God’s face upon them (v15b). His name is what they rejoice in, not just sometimes, but continually (v16a). His righteousness is what raises them up (v16b). His glory is what makes them strong (v17a). Heaven is where we find the people who know the Lord as their very own, and who know Him as all their blessedness. This is the sort of person we find in heaven.

But what is heaven most of all? Heaven is where Christ is. It is where God has made Himself known in His Son. He is His people’s horn (their greatest strength, v17b), His people’s shield (v18a), and His people’s King (v18b).

The next section of this Psalm (vv19–37) is taken up with the promise about Christ from 2Samuel 7. Great David was a type (a sort of foreshadowing) of his even greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose throne would be forever. Then vv38–52 cry out under current king, in current chastenings, for the fulfillment of those promises to come.

So this first section prepares us to do similarly in our own circumstances—to embrace Christ as the heavenlyness of heaven. Then, we will be prepared to nourish our hearts upon the promises concerning Him as our King, that we might biblically and heartily sing and pray, “Thy kingdom come.” Christ is the heavenlyness of heaven!!

What do you think of heaven? How does this Psalm help reshape those thoughts? How often does Christ fill your thoughts now? What use can you make of this Psalm to fill out how you pray the first three petitions of what we commonly call “the Lord’s Prayer”?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we rejoice to join heaven in singing of Your mercies and making known Your faithfulness. We thank You that You have made Jesus Christ, the Son of David, and King of righteousness to be our Great High Priest. In Him, we gather to the throne. And it is He who sits upon the throne. With the angels, we join by faith those souls of the just who have been perfected, to praise God our Father and Christ our Mediator whose blood speaks better than Abel’s. There is none like You, O Lord our God, to whom heaven and earth belong. You have a mighty arm; strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face. Now, O Lord, we are the happy people who have come before You to know the joyful sound of Your praise. Give us to walk in this worship service, in the shining light of Your face. Make us to rejoice in Your Name. Indeed, make us to rejoice in Your Son, whom You have given to be our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we come, and in whose Name we pray, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP89C “Behold How Blessed the People Are” or TPH89B “My Song Forever Shall Record”**

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Psalm 89 verses 1 through 18. These are God's words. A contemplation of ethan, the azerheit. I will sing of the mercies of Yahweh forever. With my mouth. I won't make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, mercy shall be built up forever. Your faithfulness you shall establish in the very heavens.

I've made a covenant with my chosen by sworn to my servant david. Your seed, I will establish forever. And build up your throne to all generations. And the seller. And the heavens. Will praise your wonder. So y'all may your faithfulness also. And the assembly of the saints. For who in the heavens can be compared to Yahwe.

Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened, yahwe. God is greatly to be feared. In the assembly of the saints, and To be held in reverence, by all those round dip. Oh, y'all may god of hosts. Who is mighty like you? Oh, yahweh. Your faithfulness also surrounds you You rule the raging of the sea.

When it's waves rise, you steal them? You have broken rahab in pieces. As one who is slain. You know, scattered your enemies with your mighty arm. The heavens are yours, the earth. Also, yours. The world and all its fullness. You have founded them, the north and the south You have created.

Tabor and hermit rejoice in your name. You have a mighty arm. Strong as your hand and high is your right hand. Righteousness and justice. Are the foundation of your throne. Mercy and truth go before your face. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound. They walk. Oh, yahweh in the light of your countenance.

In your name. They rejoice old and long. Then your righteousness, they are exalted. You are the glory of their strength. In your favor. Our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to yahweh. And our king. To the holy one of israel. So far the reading gods inspired and inherent work.

So, this is a song and it is a prayer. There's also for instruction. It's what the word. That they have translated here math. Contemplation must kill. Means an instructs us about heaven. And in three parts instruct us about jesus as the heavenliness of heaven. First, that god is the heavenliness of heaven, but in our portion that we have today this week, But as we'll see, it does.

So especially Identifying, not only. God's goodness to david, but Of jesus as god himself. And then it in the next section. In versus, Uh, 19 through 37 which lord willing would have next week. It reviews before god? Promises that god made to david through nathan. And second Samuel 7 concerning his son who had sit on the throne forever.

And so those promises and The keeping of those promises as Further food, for thought. Her fuel for meditation. On how it is that. A man, our savior, our priest, our king. Would be God himself. And then in verses 38 through 52. Because of the context into which the psalm comes.

The present distress. Of ethan that has azra height and therefore, Subsequent generations of god's people. Because this is a psalm given for instruction. And so he gives us. The psalm for instruction about how to meditate on. The glory of god as the heavenliness of heaven. And christ himself as god and the heavenliness of knowing him.

And then comparing it to The present distresses and time under discipline of god's people. So it's a long psalm. And for that reason, we're taking it in three weeks. But just today, we have God himself as the heavenliness of heaven. You can see that. That's the, uh, The main subject here due to all the forevers and heavens.

In the opening versus I singing. The mercies of galvite forever. And that word is crescent there. Well, with my mouth, I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. So Emmett, and they'll cancel banana again in verse 2. I've said, mercy shall be built up forever. Your faithfulness is just evolution to the heavens.

You remembers the. The promise. To David concerning his seed. And we know to be the lord, jesus. You see those established forever, build up your throat to all generations. And even further down. The heavens are yours and so forth, although Um, That happens in verse 11. It's probably. What we would call the second and the heavens praising has wonders.

Numbers five. However, is probably the very heaven. So the third So this is this is a song about heaven. And what we find in heaven is not. Um, Increased intensified prolonged earthly blessing. That's uh, sad aspect of our fleshliness. That there are many, who think of The third heaven, the Everlasting blessedness.

In terms of what they enjoy now, just kind of multiplied by an extra factor. For an extra exponent. But god himself and his character as we could see in The language of these 18 verses. Is the glory of heaven. In heaven, the saints. Are amazed that. There is nothing like him.

Who in the heavens can be compared to y'all? Who among The sons of the mighty. Whether this be glorified saints, or Angels. Could none of them can be? Compare it until it. Who is mighty like you oh, yahweh verse 8? Your faithfulness also surrounds you and then immediately verse 9.

Something that no creature can do. You rule the raging of the sea. When it's waves, rise. You steal them. Now, there are someone Who told the sea and the waves to stop and they did. And perhaps it was instinctive, or perhaps it was informed by Knowing psalm 89. Where that comes in the context of This is one of the things that yahweh reserves for himself.

He doesn't give to any mere creature to be able to do And it's suddenly They are in a boat. In which there are in more danger. Then they thought they had been when the winds and the waves were raging Then you read, mark. I think his chapter 4 They were exceedingly afraid and said, who is this?

Well, the answer is answered by the who is like you oh yahweh Insom 89. Jesus is The living god. Who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them. From whom and through whom and through whom are all things. The one who loved us. And came a man.

To obey in our place. And suffer god's wrath in our place. And a tone frost by his blood. There's the living, god is yahweh. And so, what we find in heaven is Him. His character. Righteousness and justice foundation of his throne. Again the consonant the mercy intrudes. That fast love and faithfulness Go before his face.

The last thing we find in heaven, Is the people who know him. To be. This blessed are the people who know the joyful sound. They walk go yahweh in the light of your continents. The earth is full of people. Who have different ideas. So what happiness is, what blessedness is what the purpose of their life is what they're looking for, etc.

Glory. Will be full of those. Who have discovered? And been taught and redeemed. Made alive leaved in christ and trained by the holy spirit. To have god himself as all their blessing. Who always walk in light. Because god's face, As their light, they walk. Or Yahweh in the light of your countenance.

So we're able to rejoice. All the time. Because it is in god's name. That they rejoice. To feel that they are never brought low. Because god's righteousness. There's their exaltation. Who feel that they are never weak. Because though, we could themselves, they are not in themselves. God is the glory of their strength.

And then the transition from verse 17a to verse 17b. Really, you have christ in verse 18. Our shield belongs to Yahweh our king to the holy one of israel. And you can see that it's describing. Therefore, In the last half of 17, the lord jesus as our horde. The horn being for those animals that have them the great strength of the animal.

That, which is Uh, their hope and their power and the symbol of their honor. And all of those things. Christ, as all of those things for us. And god by his grace, by his favor. Has given the lord jesus. To us. To be our strength to be our shield, to be our king.

This is. Even when you have those glimpses and the vision. That god gives to john. This is the great joy. Of the perfected saints and glory. That the one who is their horn, the one who is their shield, the one, who is the redeemer, the one who is their king sits on the throne.

But yes, god is on the throne, but there is also the lamb, who is in the midst of the throne. They're redeemer at the lord. Jesus christ. And so, There are many details here that we can spend more time in. But the basic thrust of The passage before us is that jesus?

Jesus is the heavenliness of heaven. And when we get in a couple weeks time, the last section of the solvent, we see, The. The way. And see the difficulty of the circumstance. In which the psalms written. Will be reminded of two things to do by way of application to the fact that jesus is the heavenly Events of heaven.

One is to long for heaven. That we would long to be there with him to see his glory, just as he longs for us to be there with him. To see his glory. What he prays for us in john 17? There's one great. Appropriation of. Our application of The verses that are before us just now.

But the other thing is, To find that we may have some have an even on earth. That we don't just say you will receive us and to glory whom have i in heaven, but you we do say that and we look forward to glory for that reason. But that even now on earth, even When otherwise, we are going through that which is difficult, We would be able to say, Nevertheless, i'm continually with you.

You take me by the hand, you guide me by your council. There is nothing. I desire upon the earth. Apart from you. So that if By the spirit's grace to you. You have the presence of mind, more and more. To be aware. Of having christ and being united to him.

And being before the light of his face. And having him as your strength and having him as your shield, and that's your king. You may be aware that you already have. The heavenliness of heaven. Therefore, You are never brought so low that you are not also seated with him.

And the heavenly places. And you had never come through a grief. In this world. And there are griefs in this world. That would not also be mixed with rejoicing in the lord, which is always My dear family, may you know, jesus to be God with you. The heavenliness of heaven.

But for you a heaven, even now on earth. Let's pray.

We thank you our father, that you have given. The beloved son. But begotten, the sun with whom you are. Well pleased. Not only to be our lord and our savior and our redeemer. But to be the one with whom you have united us. As a bride. To a group.

That we thank you that your same spirit who teaches us to know you. As our father and to draw. Much comfort and peace and joy. And strength from this. Has taught us also to know the lord jesus as our beloved And our redeemer. And especially as our god, That we may walk in the light.

That radiates and shines from his face. That we may have him as Continual. Source of fullness of joy. That we may have him as strength. In the midst of any weakness.

And yet, we admit before you that even having known these things, For a long time. We had not experienced them. As we long to experience some or as we ought to Indeed. Oh lord. If we had had More experiential knowledge. Of our redeemer this way. There are many. Lesser things that we would not have.

Wasted our life in. And there are many sinful things. That we would not have allowed ourselves to turn to. And so we pray. Oh god, that your spirit would give us to know christ. Would give us to know you in christ. In the way that you teach us about these 18 verses, Thank you o lord for your word.

Which reviews the mind saves the soul. We pray that your spirit would keep using your word to do, so for us. Did jesus name. Amen.