

Jesus in the Psalms ***When Things Fall Apart***

Psalm 89

December 1st, 2024

I. Introduction: Between Promise & Experience

Psalm 89 captures not just this tension of promise and fulfillment, but it captures the most difficult part of this tension. It captures the difficult no-man's-land between promise and _____ . It is the song that expresses the sorrow of God's people who trust in Him for His promises while in the moment experiencing nothing but the contrary. God promises to bring everything together, unite it all in Him—but all around us things are falling apart. It was the song of God's people in exile. It was the song of Jesus and His apostles. And it is our song. It is a song that recounts the everlasting mercies of the Lord, and His covenant faithfulness to all generations. But it doesn't just recount these promises of God, it also laments the harsh experience of God's people in a world not yet overtaken by these promises. It arises in this context, and it teaches us how to live in this tension: it teaches us how to live in the darkest valley of Advent season.

II. The Text: Psalm 89

*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 . . .

III. PART ONE - God's Mercies & Faithfulness to David (vv. 1-37)

The Lord has chosen _____. He has sworn to David, that first, his offspring would be established forever; and, secondly, that his throne shall endure to all generations. This is good news, not just for the psalmist, not just for Israel, but ultimately, for the whole of creation. Why? Because the Lord God is the God of *all* the earth. He is not some measly regional god, but the incomparable Creator and Sustainer of all things. Since the Lord God of Israel, is the God of all, His people, therefore, are most blessed, and His king is the highest king.

The psalmist looks at this God's covenant made with David, His anointed (i.e., Greek: '_____', Hebrew: 'Messiah'). But what happens if there is sin in the Davidic line? Will the covenant still stand? Will the throne of David remain? If David's sons are wretched, the Lord will discipline them. He will judge them. But His covenant will stand. The covenant mercies of the Lord will not forsake the Davidic dynasty. The faithfulness of the Lord will not fail, nor will He break His covenant. He will not alter the word that has gone out of His lips. These are some *serious* promises. The Lord has loaded David up with the certainty of His promises, even taking into consideration the worst case scenario—rebellion. Should David's sons rebel against the Lord, the Lord will discipline them, but He will not forsake them.

IV. PART TWO - Lamentation, Prayer & Praise (vv. 38-52)

The psalm then takes an alarming turn. Without any kind of warning everything changes. All that came before comes crashing down. One by one the previous promises seem to be overturned: The lovingkindness and mercy is now _____ (v. 38). The exalted king is now _____ (v. 41). The covenant that will not be broken has been _____ (v. 39). The king's horn, his sword was exalted and now his crown is in the dust (v. 39). His enemies were struck down, but now they are lifted over him and they _____ (v. 42). His throne which was to be established as the days of the heavens—is now cast down to the ground (v. 44), his days _____ (v. 45). His glory has turned to shame (v. 44). The promises of God are overturned. The exalted king lies defeated.

How does the psalmist respond to this? He does not scoff or mock or turn to unbelief. He prays and cries out to God. “How long?” (v. 46). The Lord turns His face away from him, and the psalmist refused to turn away from His God. He followed after Him with this cry, and he reminds the Lord of His promises, of His lovingkindness and covenant with David (vv. 47-51).

After he laments and prays, the psalmist ends with praise. Though the Lord cast off and abhor—though He renounce and profane the crown of David—though He break down all his hedges and make him a reproach to all around—though He make his glory cease, yet, “Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and amen” (v. 52).

VI. The Song of _____ (Luke 1:30-33)

It is the song of God's people in exile. But it is, primarily, a song about God's anointed—God's Christ, the true Son of David. This Davidic covenant centers on Him. And how did it go with David's Son? He was punished. He was cast off. His crown was thrown to the ground and replaced with a crown of thrones. He was mocked. He a reproach to all His friends and family. His enemies rejoiced over Him. His glory ceased and His throne by all appearances was cast down to the ground, and His days were shortened. The Father turned His face away. And, what did Jesus do? He cried out to Him. The Father forsook Him, but He did not forsake His Father. Like the psalmist His cry went after Him.

VII. Things Fall Apart

In our experience, too, things fall apart. But, how does this square with what God has said? We have been given precious and exceedingly great promises, but then we look around and we can be tempted to join in with the mockers, saying, “Where are His promises?” But how does the Holy Spirit lead us by this song to walk by faith when *things fall apart*? It teaches us to cry out to God, to lay our lament before Him. We cannot remain silent. _____ cries out. It cries out, and asks God to answer us. And then, the Spirit leads us in praise. In the midst of disorder and chaos, we cry out to Him, and then we praise Him, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God forever and ever. Amen and amen.” We entrust our case to His hands, saying with Jesus on the Cross, “Into your hands do I commit my soul.”

VIII. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ