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## Psalm 89

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 89.

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### Topics.

- I made a covenant with; David "I will establish your offspring forever."
- LORD, greatly to be feared; awesome in the council of the holy ones.
- God rules the raging sea, crushed Rahab and scattered his enemies.
- Our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the holy one of Israel.
- I anointed David so my hand would be established with him.
- My steadfast love shall be with David and my name shall be in his horn.
- He shall cry, "You are my father, my God, the rock of my salvation."
- David's seed shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun.
- You made David's splendour to cease and cast his throne to the ground.
- LORD, where is your love, you by your faithfulness swore to David?

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK THREE (PSALM 73-89)

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### PSALM 89:1-4

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A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

#### **I made a Covenant, "I will Establish David's Offspring Forever."**

- **Psalm 89:1-4:** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. <sup>2</sup>For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." <sup>3</sup>You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: <sup>4</sup>I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations." *Selah*

Ethan has a great love for the LORD and His people he is fully aware God spoke to David (the LORD'S chosen one) in a vision (v19) and told him that He would make a covenant with him that would stand firm. The covenant promised God would:

- Establish David's offspring forever and build his throne for all generations (v4).

- Not allow David's enemy to outwit him or the wicked to humble him (v22).
- Crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him (v23).
- Love him in faithfulness and in God name exalt his horn (v24).
- Set David's hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers (v25).
- Make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth (v27).
- Keep for him and the covenant forever (v28).
- Establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens (v29).
- Cause David's offspring to endure forever and his throne as long as the sun is before the LORD (v35-36).

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## PSALM 89:5

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### **Let Heavens Praise You O LORD, in the Assembly of the Holy Ones.**

- **Psalm 89:5:** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

This verse carries the following two ideas:

1. Let the angels in the heavens praise God for His steadfast love and wonders.
2. Let all the faithful (the holy ones) in the assembly on earth praise God for His steadfast love and wonders.

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## PSALM 89:6-8

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### **O LORD, greatly to be Feared; Awesome amongst the Holy Ones.**

- **Psalm 89:6-8:** For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, <sup>7</sup>a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? <sup>8</sup>O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

The expression, "God is greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones," (v7) can refer to the following two groups:

1. The angels dwelling in heaven, since it is in the context of there being no one in the skies or the heavens that can be compared to God.
2. To faithful religious leaders in Gods Kingdom meeting together to discuss their ministry, duty and service and council God's people.

Fear of God in this context means that those who have authority over God's people should fear being dishonest in their judgment and fear perverting justice for their own gain (as some in religious authority do) because God will judge them accordingly. For those who think religious leaders do not use their honoured and privileged positions for their own gain consider the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) they plotted Jesus murder for their own gain. Added to this certain corrupt Catholic priests used their power to abuse children while others in the global Kingdom of God use their followers as merchandise to line their own pockets with worldly riches and some twist and pervert the Scriptures to appeal to self, pride and ego simply so they

can have global congregations and be exalted as a famous minister amongst others of renown in the global Kingdom of God. The apostle Paul expressed his and the apostle's attitude toward serving Christ in the following words:

- In all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses (2 Cor. 6:4).

Those who are called to serve Christ are called to serve him in honesty and integrity of heart and with love and compassion for those in his Kingdom and seeking him if they do not minister from a heart of love for Christ and with compassion toward his people and with honesty of heart they will when the Lord returns in glory find themselves standing in the following group:

- Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And he will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (Matt. 7:22-23).

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## PSALM 89:9-10

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### God Rules the Raging Sea; Crushed Rahab; Scattered His Enemies.

- **Psalm 89:9-10:** You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. <sup>10</sup>You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

**The raging sea:** in this context refers to God miraculously parting of the waves of the Red Sea and allowing His people to escape and then closing the roaring waves and drowning the enemies of His people so that the waves of the sea returned to their normal calm state.

**You crushed Rahab:** the word Rahab in this context does not refer the prostitute woman named Rahab, but to Egypt it comes from the Hebrew word (*rahab*) which carries the idea, of a boaster, a bully and of one who rages, is prideful and possess great strength. The following verses show that Rahab is used in the context of the plagues of Egypt, the Red Sea and bringing Egypt to ruin which show it is clearly a symbolic name for Egypt.

- By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab. (Job 26:12). Referring to the Red Sea drowning the armies of Egypt.
- You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters. (Psalm 74:13). Referring to the Red Sea drowning the armies of Egypt.
- You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm. (Psalm 89:10). Referring to the Red Sea drowning the armies of Egypt.
- Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, that pierced the dragon? (Isaiah 51:9).

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## PSALM 89:11-13

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### Heavens and Earth are Yours; Tabor and Hermon Praise You.

- **Psalm 89:11-13:** The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them. <sup>12</sup>The north and the south, you have created them; Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name. <sup>13</sup>You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand.

**God's right hand:** in this context refers to his mighty and awesome power, but in other context it can refer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Tabor:** is a mountain west from Jerusalem it is mentioned in poetic and prophetic literature. Samuel told Saul he would meet men bearing gifts here, as a sign of God's favour. The name Tabor also perpetuates the memory of Deborah the prophetess and Judge who destroyed Israel's enemies in a great battle at Mount Tabor during the time of the Book of Judges (recorded in chapters 4 and 5) between Canaanite forces of the king of Hazor and the Israelite army led by Barak and Deborah.

**Hermon:** (means sacred mountain) is in the east it is awe-inspiring to look at its ridge is about 20 miles long, with three peaks, two of them rising over 9,000 feet. Mount Hermon is called "Mountain of the old man" perhaps because of its white head, but more likely because of its dignity.

**Tabor and Hermon:** are most likely introduced for their prominence and importance in the land. They are two eminent mountains in the land of Canaan Tabor being on the western side of Palestine and Hermon on the eastern side and both of them signify objects of beauty and grandeur. The idea is that God had control of all parts of the universe; that the world in every direction, and in every part, declared his power, and made known his greatness. The significance of the heavens (the constellations and stars) and all the earth combined with the north and the south and Tabor symbolising the west and Hermon symbolising the east together signify that all of heaven and all of earth and everything in them north, south, east and west are all the LORD'S and all created by His strong arm.

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## PSALM 89:14

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### The Foundation of God's Throne.

- **Psalm 89:14:** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Here are the four pillars of God's throne:

1. Righteousness.
2. Justice.
3. Steadfast love.
4. Faithfulness.

These four pillars of God's throne go before Him means that those on earth who confess to believe in Him should have these four attitudes set upon the throne of their heart and do all they can to manifest them outwardly. It means God is with those who live righteously (meaning they do good and what is right); show honest justice without bias or favour to the rich and poor alike; show steadfast love to all people meaning they treat people with respect and decency and show faithfulness, meaning in all they do for God, the Lord Jesus Christ, their brothers and sisters and for those in the secular world they do fairly and truthfully in contrast to being deceptive.

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## PSALM 89:15-18

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### Our Shield belongs to the LORD, our King to the Holy One of Israel.

- **Psalm 89:15-18:** Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, <sup>16</sup>who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted. <sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength; by your favour our horn is exalted. <sup>18</sup>For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

The expression "blessed are the people who know the festal shout," carry the following two ideas:

1. Blessed are those who keep in mind the appointed times of Israel's festival feast days and look forward to them with joy.
2. Blessed are those who know the inward joy of the LORD and His favour upon their lives.

This group of verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the ones who are truly blessed are those who not only exalt God in their hearts and minds and have great joy in fellowshiping with others and worshipping God together as His people, but who also do all they can to live a lifestyle that honours His name, His character and what is right and good. The title, "The LORD, our king the Holy One of Israel," (v18) was a common expression for the faithful of the Old Testament. The invisible, immortal, Almighty, Holy God the creator of all things and source of all life was their King. The following verses (there are many more) shine a light upon this truth:

- The LORD (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) sits enthroned over the flood; as king forever (Psalm 29:10).
- The LORD (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) the Most High a great king over all the earth (Psalm 47:2).
- I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King (Isa. 43:15).
- The LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king (Jer. 10:10).

David being a King and prophet wrote:

- The earth and those who dwell in it is the LORD'S (Jehovah) who will ascend to the hill of the LORD and stand in His Holy place, everyone who has a honest heart and does not act in deceit will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation such will be the generation of those who seek the LORD (Ps. 24:1-6). Then David says that the King of glory will come in the LORD, strong and mighty in battle! The LORD of hosts who is the King of glory! Selah (Psalm 24:7-10).

In this prophecy of David's, the LORD God (Jehovah) the King of glory is pictured coming to the faithful of the Old Testament and defeating their enemies in battle, but the words, "the King of glory will come in the LORD strong and mighty in battle! The LORD of hosts who is the King of glory," can be seen as an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the sense that the King of the Old Testament will come in the King of the New Testament meaning that God's favour will come to His people through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The following verses show that the Lord Jesus Christ is also the King.

- Your King is coming mounted on a colt, a beast of burden (Matt 21:5).
- Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross (Mark 15:32).
- The Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings. (Rev. 17:14).
- He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).

This means that both the heavenly Father and the Son are referred to as Kings, but that does not mean that they are the one and same person (as some believe). The expression, "Your King is coming to you," during the Old Testament era meant, "God's (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) favour is coming to Israel," and in the New Testament it means that God's favour is now coming to His people through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## PSALM 89:19-21

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### **I Anointed David so My Hand would be Established with Him.**

- **Psalm 89:19-21:** Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: "I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. <sup>20</sup>I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, <sup>21</sup>so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

Ethan now reflects back to God in a vision speaking to Samuel and telling him He has chosen and exalted David from amongst the people to be king of Israel and that Samuel was anoint him as such.

- Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (1 Sam. 16:13).
- When he had removed him (King Saul), he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' (Acts 13:22).

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## PSALM 89:22-24

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### **My Steadfast Love shall be with David and My Name in His Horn.**

- **Psalm 89:22-24:** The enemy shall not outwit him (David); the wicked shall not humble him. <sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. <sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

**Horn:** comes from the Hebrew word (*qeren*) it literally refers to a horn and figuratively carries the idea of power and strength such as is seen in a mighty king or ruler.

When God called David, he promised David that his enemies would not overcome him, and God's faithfulness and love would be with him. The words, "in my name shall his horn be exalted," initially and partially refers to Solomon David's son since he was highly exalted and did reign through the golden years of Israel, but the following verses clearly show the horn of David to be exalted refers to the Lord Jesus Christ the offspring of David.



**He shall Cry, "You are My Father, the Rock of My salvation."**

- **Psalm 89:25-29:** I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. <sup>26</sup>He (David's horn) shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.' <sup>27</sup>And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. <sup>28</sup>My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. <sup>29</sup>I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.

When the angel of Gabriel came to Mary he said:

- The angel Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-32).

These verses clearly show that the horn of David is the Lord Jesus Christ so for the sake of simplicity the following will use Christ's name rather than the horn of David.

**I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers:** (v25) the seas and the rivers can carry the following two ideas:

1. The seas refer to the populations of the world while the rivers refer to the rulers or leaders means that God will set the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The seas refer to the populations of the world and the rivers refer to the faithful of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It matters not which one of these apply since both can be applied and Christ will ultimately have all power and all authority over all nations of the world when he returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

**He (David's horn) shall cry to me, You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation:** (v26) there is no actual verse of Christ himself actually saying these exact words, but there are many verses of David expressing them in various ways which carry and echo the Lord Jesus Christ and the following verses (there are hundreds of others) clearly show Jesus is the Son of God.

- The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1).
- Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18).
- These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31).
- Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (1 John 4:15).

Added to these one only has to read the words of Jesus to see the unique loving relationship he has with his heavenly Father and that the Father has with him.

**I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth:** (v27) the firstborn in this context refers to the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ it means he was the first born to the right hand side of God. He was the first to be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory where he disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them (Col. 2:15) so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the rulers and



authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that God has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephes. 3:10-11). It is true that others such as Lazarus were raised from the dead prior to Christ, but they were only raised to mortal life and not eternal life.

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn (from the dead) of all creation. (Colossians 1:15).
- He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (Col. 1:18).
- Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (Rev. 1:5).

**My steadfast love I will keep for him forever and my covenant will stand firm for him:** (v28) this refers to the promises of the covenant God made with David concerning the promised son to come from his loins. In the Scripture it is written.

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies (cannot lie in KJV), promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

Which means that covenant and the promise God made to David must come to pass.

**I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens:** (v29) Ethan here repeats again what he wrote in verse three.

- I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: <sup>4</sup>I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations. (v3-4).

God in our present age of grace is establishing David's offspring through his promised seed the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ God is building a new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles saved by faith in God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ and by God's grace. This new nation is called a new creation in Christ, a new man in Christ, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of Christ. For further information concerning this new nation see the title:

- The Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

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## PSALM 89:30-35

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### **I Swore by My Holiness; David Offspring shall Endure Forever.**

- **Psalm 89:30-35:** If his children (David) forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, <sup>31</sup>if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, <sup>32</sup>then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, <sup>33</sup>but I will not remove from him (David) my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. <sup>34</sup>I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. <sup>35</sup>Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.

God who cannot lie, promised David that He would establish his offspring forever and then said, but if his offspring forsake Him and turn to other gods, he will punish them but will not violate His promise to David or lie to him. Here is the brilliance of God's covenant and promise to David, even though it came with conditions in that, if David's offspring rebelled against God and turned to other gods to worship them God would punish them, yet He would still remain faithful to David and keep His promise to him. This is because the promise and covenant was not dependent upon all David's offspring remaining faithful, but solely upon one being faithful who of course was the Lord Jesus Christ. God's promise was not set upon man, but upon the Son of God this is why God could guarantee His

promise to David. This also means that God had enormous faith in His Son since if he fell to temptation or refused to walk the suffering path to the bloodstained cross of Calvary the eternal plan God purposed from the foundations of the world would be left bankrupt.

**God has spoken in His Holiness:** (v35) means God spoke as a holy God; a God who is true and whose promises are always fulfilled. The idea is, that the Holiness of God was the pledge and assurance that what He had promised He would certainly perform. In reference to David the expression carries the following ideas:

- God has spoken to David in the sanctuary where David would ask counsel from God and from where God usually gave out his oracles.
- God did not simply speak, but swore an oath and promised by His Holy character and His word.
- God spoke to David's through His holy prophets Samuel and Nathan Who regularly spoke with David.
- God spoke to David by the Holy Spirit in the inner being.
- God spoke by the perfection of his holy character and nature in which He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

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### PSALM 89:36-37

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#### **David's Seed shall Endure Forever, His Throne as Long as the Sun.**

- **Psalm 89:36-37:** His (David's) seed shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. <sup>37</sup>Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." *Selah*

Again, Ethan repeats God's promise to David. David's seed in this context refers to the following two things:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ, it is Jesus Christ's throne that will last as long as the sun is before God.
2. All the faithful of the Old Testament who looked with faith, expectation and joy toward Israel's coming promised Messiah the Christ and to all the faithful of the New Testament who look by faith with the same joy and expectation to the same Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

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### PSALM 89:38-45

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#### **You made David's Splendour Cease and Cast his Throne Down.**

- **Psalm 89:38-45:** But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed (David). <sup>39</sup>You have renounced the covenant (made void in KJV) with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust. <sup>40</sup>You have breached all his walls; you have laid his strongholds in ruins. <sup>41</sup>All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors. <sup>42</sup>You have exalted the right hand (David's enemies) of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice. <sup>43</sup>You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and you have not made him stand in battle. <sup>44</sup>You have made his splendour to cease and cast his throne to the ground. <sup>45</sup>You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with shame. *Selah*

**Void (renounced):** the word void comes from the Hebrew word (na'ar) and means to abhor and reject. In the context of these verses it means that God has treated the crown of David and his offspring as a polluted thing; a thing to be rejected and abhorred; a thing which one casts indignantly upon the ground.

**You have renounced the covenant with your servant:** (v39) meaning God has dealt with David as if there was no covenant promise made to him. This is not referring to the covenant of circumcision or the covenant at Sinai, which were made void at the death of Christ; but the covenant that God would establish David's offspring forever and build his throne for all generations (v3-4). But rather than God breaking His covenant He is keeping it since the covenant also promised, "If David's offspring forsake His laws then God would punish them accordingly. (v30-32), but there is a difference between punishing someone and removing love from them loving parents discipline their children in different ways, but that does not mean that the stop loving them. This is what God meant when He said, "I will punish them, but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness or violate my covenant or alter all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David." (v33-35).

**You have defiled David's crown in the dust:** (v39) by exposing David's kingdom to contempt and giving his sceptre and power into the hands of their enemies. Thrones and crowns are often laid in the dust; but there is a crown of glory reserved for David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to his family which fades not away. God at this time has cast Israel aside, because of their gross wickedness and rebellion toward Him and because they turned to other gods to worship them. God will afflict and distress his people with grievous troubles, but he will not cast them off forever. Self-deceivers abuse the ways of God by a careless walk and bring themselves into darkness and God's judgment. But those who give God thanks and walk in His ways can trust God to keep them for His treasured position. It is not always easy to reconcile God's providences with his promises, yet though we may not understand we can rest assured that God will fulfil his word. When Christ the anointed One of God was upon the bloodstained cross of Calvary, God seemed to have cast him off, yet He did not make void his covenant, for that was established forever. To all who stood upon the hill of Calvary and looked upon Jesus with a twisted crown of thorns on his bleeding head, hanging on the bloodstained cross being mocked and scorned as the people shouted with contempt "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matt. 27:29). Truly this seemed at that time totally inconsistent with God's promise, "I will make him the highest of the kings of the earth," (Psalm 89:27).

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## PSALM 89:46-48

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### How Long, O LORD, will you Hide Forever and your Wrath Burn.

- **Psalm 89:46-48:** How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire? <sup>47</sup>Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you have created all the children of man! <sup>48</sup>What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? *Selah*

Ethan is in great despair as he sees Israel defeated and given into the hand of their enemies, he feels God will remove His hand of favour from His people Israel. The words, "Remember how short my time is!" (v47) imply that Ethan is in his old age and perhaps near death and being near death longs to see God's hand of favour returned to Israel.

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## PSALM 89:49-52

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### Lord, where is Your Love, which You Swore to David?

- **Psalm 89:49-52:** Lord, where is your steadfast love of old, which by your faithfulness you swore to David? <sup>50</sup>Remember, O Lord, how your servants are mocked, and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the many nations, <sup>51</sup>with which your enemies mock, O LORD, with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed. <sup>52</sup>Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

It is very easy to imagine that the apostles and the faithful men and women who followed Christ's having these same thoughts and praying these very words during the three days the Lord lay in the tomb. Most of the faithful will experience times when circumstances around them seem to indicate that God has forsaken them, in these moments we are called to hold fast to our faith in the same way as the faithful and of the Old and the New Testament did which is by trusting God.

**Summary:** God promised David that his deed would continue forever, Ethan thought this applied to David's offspring only, but the promise is through the Lord Jesus Christ the true seed of David. God in Jesus is creating an entirely new nation called in the New Testament, a new creation, a new man, the body of Christ and the church which is made up of Jews and Gentiles. Those who belong to Christ's Kingdom Old and New Testament are the true seed of David.

**Great encouragement:** this Psalm is a great encouragement for anyone who feels their life is out of God's control. When we think our circumstance look bleak and we are like Ethan and cannot see God's hand on our life maybe God has an eternal plan and purpose in mind. Just as Ethan could never have fully known the working out of God's promised covenant to David and it appeared to him that the LORD had broken his oath to David and forsaken His people, there may be times in our lives when we will identify with exactly how Ethan was feeling. Perhaps in those trying circumstance the only answer, is to do what Ethan did and walk in faith proclaiming, "Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen" (51).

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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

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It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

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The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world.<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ.<sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility<sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace,<sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles).<sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews).<sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father.<sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God,<sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone<sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought

to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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