

SBC – March 5, 2023

Psalm 89 (NKJV)

“The Davidic Covenant & the Messiah – Part Two”

Psalm 89 is the third longest Psalm right behind Psalm 119 and Psalm 78 with its theme being the Davidic Covenant. God made a covenant with David that essentially involved 3 things as seen in 2 Sam. 7:11-17.

Slide # 1



Davidic Covenant

- **House**
 - dynasty, ruling monarch, posterity
- **Kingdom**
 - A king must have a kingdom
 - A sphere of rule
- **Throne**
 - Seat of Government

There are aspects of this covenant that were conditional, and yet the outcome is ultimately unconditionally and unilaterally guaranteed which will be fulfilled in the greater David – the Messiah.

Psalm 89 was written by Ethan who was a contemporary of Solomon. He was wise and a worship leader in Israel (cf. 1 Kg. 4:31; 1 Chron. 15:19; 2 Chron. 5:12). Some think that while he wrote the first part of the Psalm which is very strong in emphasizing the Davidic covenant and the greatness of God; that perhaps another descendant of his – of his ilk wrote the last part of the Psalm since it reflects a complete change in tone and questioning whether God is actually going to fulfill the Davidic Covenant.

It would seem that circumstances have changed with a Davidic king no longer on the throne. Things looked dire with no change in sight. That reflects the last part of the Psalm.

We left off last time at verses 28- 29 where God has just promised David “firstborn status” in the position of highest of the kings of the earth; that His covenant will stand firm with him; and that His seed and throne will endure forever. What wonderful promises.

Slide # 2

Outline of Psalm 89

Theme: *The Incomparable God & His Covenant to David*

1-4 – God’s Covenant Faithfulness

5-14 – God Praised for His Attributes

15-18 – The Blessedness of God’s People

19-24 – God Blessed King David

25-29 – God’s Covenant with David

30-37 – ***Rehearsing God’s Promises to David***

38-45 – ***The Covenant and the Crisis***

46-51 – ***A Desperate Plea for Divine Intervention***

52 – ***Doxology***

Tonight we pick out study of Psalm 89 up at verse 30 where in verses 30-37 we have a rehearsing of God’s promises to David including the conditional part.

30-37 – Rehearsing God’s Promises to David

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.

The word statutes means “to inscribe” or “to cut into” and has the nuance of permanence. It refers to God’s enduring "mandates," "precepts," or "rules". It refers to the everlasting nature of the Scriptures. In today’s vernacular, we might say, “**set in stone**.” The Bible statutes are “set in stone” boundaries for life. It is another way of saying, “God’s unchanging” law.

God made an eternal covenant with David involving his heritage, but there were also conditional aspects to it. If David’s sons forsook the law of God, God said He would punish them for it – and frankly, the entire nation would suffer because of it.

This is where the nation is at today. Israel has no Davidic king on David’s throne today and they are still languishing under the disciplinary hand of God. Much of the rest of Psalm 89 deals with this reality that is still in place.

After David, it didn’t take long for the kings to fall into sin. Solomon fell into grievous sin because of the foreign wives he married.

Because of this, the kingdom was split after Solomon with the 10 northern tribes leaving the Davidic leadership, and only the remaining 2 southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin with a Davidic king. Of the 20 kings of Judah that followed Solomon 8 of them were good and the rest were bad. All 19 of the northern kingdoms kings were bad.

Slide # 3

Kings of Judah and Israel

Kings of Judah		Kings of Israel	
Bad	Rehoboam	Bad	Jeroboam
Bad	Abijah	Bad	Nadab
Good	Asa	Bad	Baasha
Good	Jehoshaphat	Bad	Elah
Bad	Jehoram	Bad	Zimri
Bad	Ahaziah	Bad	Omri
Bad	Athaliah	Bad	Ahab
Good	Joash	Bad	Ahaziah
Good	Amaziah	Bad	Joram
Good	Uzziah	Bad	Jehu
Good	Jotham	Bad	Jehoahaz
Bad	Ahaz	Bad	Jehoash
Good	Hezekiah	Bad	Jeroboam II
Bad	Manasseh	Bad	Zechariah
Bad	Amon	Bad	Shallum
Good	Josiah	Bad	Menahem
Bad	Jehoahaz	Bad	Pekahiah
Bad	Jehoiakim	Bad	Pekah
Bad	Jehoiachin	Bad	Hoshea
Bad	Zedekiah		

**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**

Even though God would discipline the line of David it would not be forever broken. God would not allow the covenant to be broken.

God's lovingkindness (hesed) is His covenant faithfulness. It cannot fail. When God says He swears by His holiness it is like saying by His holy character. It is making the promise in the strongest way possible and stating it in the strongest way possible.

Note the language: "His seed shall endure forever...His throne as the sun before Me" which is a picture of continual enduring.

God is saying that even in spite of human failure in the Davidic line yet the covenant promises will not be broken. There will be an ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant promises to David involving an enduring seed and throne. This will ultimately be fulfilled in the person of the Messiah.

But now the TONE changes...

38-45- The Covenant and the Crisis

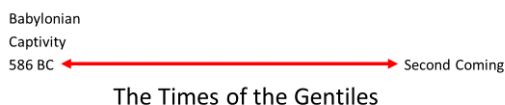
38 But You have cast off and abhorred, You have been furious with Your anointed.

39 You have renounced the covenant of Your servant; You have profaned his crown by casting it to the ground.

This seems to refer to the time of the Babylonian Captivity after which there was no longer a king sitting on David's throne and there hasn't been ever since that time.

The language here is strong. It feels to the writer like God has broken His covenant and that He is now done with David. It seems like God has renounced the Davidic covenant in that the Davidic crown has been defiled in being cast to the ground.

Slide # 4



1. David's THRONE in Jerusalem – Unoccupied
2. TEMPLE – Unoccupied by God's presence
3. Jerusalem OPPRESSED by Gentiles

The writer laments...

40 You have broken down all his hedges; You have brought his strongholds to ruin.

41 All who pass by the way plunder him; He is a reproach to his neighbors.

42 You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries; You have made all his enemies rejoice.

43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword, And have not sustained him in the battle.

44 You have made his glory cease, And cast his throne down to the ground.

God's protection over the Davidic dynasty has been removed; he is now plundered and is an object of ridicule by all his neighbors.

Whereas in verse 13 God's hand was lifted high against Israel's neighbors, now the hand of their enemies is exalted over them resulting in the enemy rejoicing over them. This is the times of the Gentiles. Israel is now the tail and not the head. And this is the discipline God warned about! It has come to pass just as He said.

The military power in the house of David has also been removed. His "glory" has been removed and his throne cast down to the ground. Note in verse 39 the crown has been cast down and now in verse 44 the throne has been cast down. And so it has been for 3000 years. That is a lot of discipline. But this is in perfect harmony with what the Bible predicted.

Slide # 5

Hosea 3:4–5 (NKJV)

4 For the children of **Israel shall abide many days without king** or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.

5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return **and seek the LORD their God and David their king.** They shall fear the LORD and His goodness **in the latter days.**

It has indeed been MANY days that Israel has been without a king sitting on the Davidic throne. When the rightful king (Jesus the Messiah) came they rejected Him and so the throne continues to remain unoccupied.

45 The days of his youth You have shortened; You have covered him with shame. Selah

The Davidic dynasty seems to have very short lived in the scope of history. It was only in existence about 400 years before the crown was removed in the Babylonian Captivity. The removal of the king from the Davidic throne, the destruction of the temple, and the oppression by the Gentiles resulted in extreme SHAME for God's people Israel.

Selah (stop and let that sink in).

The writer realizes God is sovereign over all that is happening.

Slide # 6

- v. 38 **You have** cast off...
- v. 38 **You have** been furious...
- v. 39 **You have** renounced...
- v. 39 **You have** profaned...
- v. 40 **You have** broken...
- v. 40 **You have** brought...
- v. 42 **You have** exalted the...adversaries..
- v. 42 **You have** made all his enemies rejoice.
- v. 43 **You have** also turned back...
- v. 44 **You have** made His glory cease...
- v. 45 **You have** shortened...

Make no mistake about it – 11 times the writer says God has brought this about. His view of God's sovereignty over the experience of the nation is very clear. This is God's doing – He has brought it about.

This brought about a "crisis of faith" – so to speak. How can it be that God made such great promises to David regarding his enduring throne and yet this level of devastation go on and on? The writer struggled with God's word and the historical reality he was seeing. He struggled with the promises of God and the present circumstances the people of God were experiencing.

There is a great lesson here. God's ways are not our ways. And God works in view of the BIG picture which in our small-mindedness we can't see. The only way we can see it is by faith. This is the lesson of Habakkuk.

He had all kinds of perplexing questions that didn't make sense to Him in terms of how God was handling things. But then the LORD answered him saying, "the just shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4).

Often in life we don't get it. Why does it seem that the promises of God don't match up with my experience? There is a bigger picture and God says trust Me!

Slide # 7



46-51 – A Desperate Plea for Divine Intervention

46 How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?

This is the age old question: "How long, LORD?" And He is right in that during the times of the Gentiles it is though God is hiding Himself from them. Even though God is faithfully preserving Israel, they don't see His miraculous intervention. They see His providential preservation – which some call a miracle, but really it is providence.

From 1446 B.C. (The Exodus) until 605 B.C. (First siege of the Babylonian Captivity) God's glory presence had uniquely been with Israel. During this time, God's presence was intimate and direct. He had often MIRACULOUSLY intervened on behalf of Israel. But starting in 605 with the first siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, things changed.

Now God's glory had departed and Israel would no longer know God's direct, miraculous intervention. Instead, 586 B.C. introduced the times of the Gentiles as Babylon destroyed the temple and took Judah captive.

God's covenant relationship with Israel remained intact, but God now allowed His people Israel to be taken advantage of and to be abused by the Gentiles as a matter of discipline. God's face was hidden!

The last three prophetic books of the OT era – namely, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, as well as the last three historical books – namely, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther are all devoid of God’s MIRACULOUS activity.

After God’s glory departed, He then worked providentially but not directly or miraculously on Israel’s behalf. His glory had departed! This is clearly portrayed in the book of Esther where the name of God is not even found, but yet His providential working underlies everything that is happening in the book even in the midst of Gentile context.

During the times of the Gentiles, this is God’s consistent pattern (cf. Dan. 2, 7, Lk. 21:24). His face remains hidden but He providentially continues to preserve His people including the line of David.

In terms of miraculous activity, we note that when the Messiah came and presented Himself to Israel that God’s miraculous activity again became front and center as part of Messiah’s credentials in presenting the kingdom to Israel (cf. Heb. 6:5). By extension, miracles also defined the apostles as they served as Christ’s authoritative representatives who gave forth New Testament revelation (cf. Heb. 2:3-4). However, with the passing of the apostles, this miraculous activity again ceased.

But note that the miracles of the Messiah and those of the Apostles were not directly in reference to the physical welfare of Israel as a nation. They served as “sign value” affirming that Jesus was the Christ and the apostles were His special ambassadors.

However, the Jews still remained under Roman rule. The times of the Gentiles proceeded with God continuing to hide His face from His people Israel; and with His glory, His direct intervening presence, not being seen on Israel’s behalf.

This pattern will continue until suddenly, IN THE DAY OF THE LORD, God’s glory – that is His miraculous, intervening presence on behalf of His people Israel will again be seen – initially in a BIG way in the war of Gog and Magog. As God then intervenes in will become clear why His face was hidden for so long and why He allowed His people Israel to suffer at the hands of the Gentiles.

Slide # 8

Ezekiel 39:23–24 (NKJV)

23 The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.” ’

Note the double emphasis here on God’s face being hidden from Israel during the times of the Gentiles.

Will God hide Himself forever? NO! Just during that long extended period of time called “the times of the Gentiles” until the war of Gog and Magog. That will be a pivotal turning time in Israel as dealt with in Ezek. 38-39.

47 Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?

48 What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave? Selah

There is a sense of desperation and urgency here – that if God doesn’t do something it’s all over. And while it may seem like this – again God’s got the LONG VIEW and in the long run, He will yet fulfill His Davidic covenant promises.

Still, in the throes of dire circumstances, it didn’t look like it and the writer struggled...

The inquiry underscores the psalmist’s frustration and his inability to understand the Lord’s actions. - **HCSB**

49 Lord, where are Your former lovingkindnesses, Which You swore to David in Your truth?

These are the pleas of desperation. We don’t always understand the WHY or WHY so long. John the Baptist couldn’t make sense of his prison experience. Many of God’s people through the ages have at times been frustrated. But we always come back to faith – and that we must leave the BIG PICTURE scheme of things with God.

In the end it will all make sense to our 3 pound brains, but not necessarily now. Now we must walk by faith.

From our vantage point we see more clearly than the psalmist. We see that indeed Messiah has come. We see that the Davidic line remained in contact all the way through to the Messiah.

Slide # 9

Matthew 1:1 (NKJV)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham:

Luke 1:32 (NKJV)

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.**

As I said, earlier Israel rejected Christ the King and so the throne remains unoccupied still to this day.

According to the prophets, God would eventually restore Israel and the Davidic throne in an earthly kingdom (Hos. 3:4,5). Never in the OT is there a sense that this Davidic promise would be fulfilled by Christ with a spiritual and heavenly reign. – **John MacArthur**

The throne of David is an earthly throne located in Jerusalem. This is the throne of David that the Messiah ultimately will occupy.

At the very end of the Book we read in Revelation 22:16 Jesus saying, ***“I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”*** It is of Him that Rev. 11:15 proclaims, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” It is of Him that God the Father prophetically says in Psalm 2:6, “I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” It is He who will one day come in great glory as “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:16).

This is where the lovingkindnesses (God’s loyal covenant love) is to be found – in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ – Who is the true Messiah. And all will yet be fulfilled in Him exactly as God has promised.

But the psalmist didn’t see all this and so plaintively says...

**50 Remember, Lord, the reproach of Your servants How I bear in my bosom the reproach of all the many peoples,
51 With which Your enemies have reproached, O LORD, With which they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed.**

The cry is for the Lord to remember – which is to say for Him to intervene and remove the reproach that has long been upon the people of Israel. The ridicule of the nations has been their experience.

And note that last line, “they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed.” This seems to prophetically depict the coming of the Messiah – who is the ultimate “Anointed One”.

Slide # 10

It ends in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah, listening for the footsteps of Your anointed (v. 51), a rabbinic phrase for the coming of the Messiah. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

I love the imagery here. If you listen carefully you can hear the footsteps of the Messiah coming. We hear it in the gospels at His first coming. We hear it in the stage setting of Israel being back in the land today (cf. Ezek. 38-39).

But yet, as it says in verse 51 the LORD’s enemies have reproached the Lord’s reputation concerning the coming Messiah. Because God has for so long held off in revealing the Messiah the idea of Israel’s Messiah coming in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant has been held up to ridicule. But just wait, He is on the way – it’s just a matter of time.

Isa. 52:15 - International Standard Version

so will he startle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths at him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand.

And so with this Messianic anticipation in view the Psalm ends with the doxology of verse 52.

52 - Doxology

52 Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.

Indeed, blessed be the LORD (YHWH) forevermore! Amen and Amen!