

Psalms 84-88 – Thursday, February 7th, 2019

Psalm 84 -- To the Chief Musician. On An Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. 1 How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young— Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God. 4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Selah 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion. 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah 9 O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

- Psalm 84 is what's known as a pilgrim Psalm, and speaks to our pilgrimage through our Valley of Weeping in this fallen world.
- It's also a Psalm of great comfort and encouragement to the wounded and weary, because of the hope it offers us in our trials.
- It's interesting that there are three parts to this Psalm; first it's the pilgrim's hope (v.1-4) experience (v. 5-8) and prayer (v. 9-12).

Psalm 85 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm Of the Sons of Korah. 1 Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah 3 You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. 4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease. 5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? 6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? 7 Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation. 8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. 9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. 10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. 11 Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven. 12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good; And our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

- Psalm 85 is believed to have been written after the return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon where they were for 70-years.
- It seems the Psalmist is keenly aware of how the consequences of our sin linger on longer than God's forgiveness for our sin.
- The take away from Psalm 85 is that of God's mercy and truth working together with righteousness and peace in His people.

Psalm 86 -- A Prayer of David. 1 Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. 4 Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. 7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me. 8 Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. 9 All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. 10 For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God. 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. 12 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. 13 For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. 14 O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them. 15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. 16 Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant. 17 Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

- Psalm 86 is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that we don't know what David's specific situation was.
- What we do know is that David had put his trust in the Lord, because of his relationship with the Lord, and praying to the Lord.
- The take away from Psalm 86 is that God's past goodness to us, is a promise of God's continued blessing for us, mercy to us.

Psalm 87 -- A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song. 1 His foundation is in the holy mountains. 2 The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob. 3 Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Selah 4 "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: 'This one was born there.'" 5 And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her." 6 The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: "This one was born there." Selah 7 Both the singers and the players on instruments say, "All my springs are in you."

- Psalm 87 is actually prophecy of sorts in the sense that the Psalmist sings about Jerusalem and the coming Kingdom of God.
- While Jerusalem has profound prophetic significance in terms of eschatology, Jerusalem is where Jesus reigns for all eternity.
- In Revelation 21:27, we're told that we too will be with Jesus as citizens of the New Jerusalem as our new home for all eternity.

Psalm 88 -- A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To the Chief Musician. Set to "Mahalath Leannoth." a Contemplation of Heman the Ezrahite. 1 O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. 2 Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry. 3 For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave. 4 I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, 5 Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand. 6 You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths. 7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah 8 You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; 9 My eye wastes away because of affliction. LORD, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. 10 Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah 11 Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? 12 Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? 13 But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You. 14 LORD, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? 15 I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. 16 Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. 17 They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. 18 Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

- Psalm 88 is known as the saddest of all Psalms from beginning to end, such that, the Psalmist has given up in hopelessness.
- So much so, that he has convinced himself that God will not deliver him from his trouble and despair and this is how it ends.
- The only thing the Psalmist seems to be asking about is why the Lord has hidden Himself from him and cast him off from Him.