

When Darkness Is My Closest Friend | Day 18: Psalms 88–89 Audio Bible for Despair & Covenant

70 verses • 6:04 reading time • World English Bible

Psalm 88

¹ A Song. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “The Suffering of Affliction.” A contemplation by Heman, the Ezrahite. LORD, the God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before you. ² Let my prayer enter into your presence. Turn your ear to my cry. ³ For my soul is full of troubles. My life draws near to Sheol. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down into the pit. I am like a man who has no help, ⁵ set apart among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more. They are cut off from your hand. ⁶ You have laid me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. ⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me. You have afflicted me with all your waves. Selah. ⁸ You have taken my friends from me. You have made me an abomination to them. I am confined, and I can’t escape. ⁹ My eyes are dim from grief. I have called on you daily, LORD. I have spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰ Do you show wonders to the dead? Do the departed spirits rise up and praise you? Selah. ¹¹ Is your loving kindness declared in the grave? Or your faithfulness in Destruction? ¹² Are your wonders made known in the dark? Or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³ But to you, LORD, I have cried. In the morning, my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴ LORD, why do you reject my soul? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵ I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up. While I suffer your terrors, I am distracted. ¹⁶ Your fierce wrath has gone over me. Your terrors have cut me off. ¹⁷ They came around me like water all day long. They completely engulfed me. ¹⁸ You have put lover and friend far from me, and my friends into darkness.

Psalm 89

¹ A contemplation by Ethan, the Ezrahite. I will sing of the loving kindness of the LORD forever. With my mouth, I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² I indeed declare, “Love stands firm forever. You established the heavens. Your faithfulness is in them.” ³ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David, my servant, ⁴ ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’” Selah. ⁵ The heavens will praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the heavenly beings is like the LORD, ⁷ a very awesome God in the council of the holy ones, to be feared above all those who are around him? ⁸ LORD, God of Armies, who is a mighty one, like you? LORD, your faithfulness is around you. ⁹ You rule the pride of the sea. When its waves rise up, you calm them. ¹⁰ You have broken Rahab in pieces, like one of the slain. You have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm. ¹¹ The heavens are yours. The earth also is yours, the world and its fullness. You have founded them. ¹² You have created the north and the south. Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name. ¹³ You have a mighty arm. Your hand is strong, and your right hand is exalted. ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Loving kindness and truth go before your face. ¹⁵ Blessed are the people who learn to acclaim you. They walk in the light of your presence, LORD. ¹⁶ In your name they rejoice all day. In your righteousness, they are exalted. ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength. In your favor, our horn will be exalted. ¹⁸ For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁹ Then you spoke in vision to your saints, and said, “I have given strength to the warrior. I have exalted a young man from the people. ²⁰ I have found David, my servant. I have anointed him with my holy oil, ²¹ with whom my hand shall be established. My arm will also strengthen him. ²² No enemy will tax him. No wicked man will oppress him. ²³ I will beat down his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. ²⁴ But my faithfulness and my loving

kindness will be with him. In my name, his horn will be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand also on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He will call to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation!’ ²⁷ I will also appoint him my firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸ I will keep my loving kindness for him forever more. My covenant will stand firm with him. ²⁹ I will also make his offspring endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ³⁰ If his children forsake my law, and don’t walk in my ordinances; ³¹ if they break my statutes, and don’t keep my commandments; ³² then I will punish their sin with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. ³³ But I will not completely take my loving kindness from him, nor allow my faithfulness to fail. ³⁴ I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered. ³⁵ Once I have sworn by my holiness, I will not lie to David. ³⁶ His offspring will endure forever, his throne like the sun before me. ³⁷ It will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah. ³⁸ But you have rejected and spurned. You have been angry with your anointed. ³⁹ You have renounced the covenant of your servant. You have defiled his crown in the dust. ⁴⁰ You have broken down all his hedges. You have brought his strongholds to ruin. ⁴¹ All who pass by the way rob him. He has become a reproach to his neighbors. ⁴² You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries. You have made all of his enemies rejoice. ⁴³ Yes, you turn back the edge of his sword, and haven’t supported him in battle. ⁴⁴ You have ended his splendor, and thrown his throne down to the ground. ⁴⁵ You have shortened the days of his youth. You have covered him with shame. Selah. ⁴⁶ How long, LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? Will your wrath burn like fire? ⁴⁷ Remember how short my time is, for what vanity you have created all the children of men! ⁴⁸ What man is he who shall live and not see death, who shall deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? Selah. ⁴⁹ Lord, where are your former loving kindnesses, which you swore to David in your faithfulness? ⁵⁰ Remember, Lord, the reproach of your servants, how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the mighty peoples, ⁵¹ With which your enemies have mocked, LORD, with which they have mocked the footsteps of your anointed one. ⁵² Blessed be the LORD forever more. Amen, and Amen.