

PSALMS
Book 3
Psalm 89

This is a prayer to God for the welfare of king David. God was angry with David and had afflicted him. That affliction also impacted the welfare of the people. None of us lives in isolation. Our actions may be ours alone but the consequences touch those around us. David had suffered both military reverses as well as health problems.

1. The psalmist opens with praise to God for His covenant with David

- a. God's covenant love is eternal - unshakeable.
- b. His words to David are trustworthy (See 2 Sam 11b-17).
- c. God had created all things and even the heavens declare His glory (Ps 19:1-ff).
- d. He is incomparably God (See IS 40).
 - Ruler of creation (Mtt 8:24-27).
 - Ruler of men ("Rahab" here a reminder that God dealt with Egypt when He delivered His people from their bondage. See Ps 68:28-31, Is 30:7).
 - Creation praises Him.
 - He is Powerful, righteous, faithful and just. His lovingkindness is trustworthy.
 - Those who have learned to praise Him are blessed. They who walk (live) in the light of His presence. It isn't those who outwardly acknowledge God but those who's lives are lived in acknowledgement of God who are blessed (Lk 6:46-49).
 - * He is their glory and strength.
 - * By His favor He exalts their strength and shield (King - Ps 47:9), Indeed, he belongs to God (See Rom 13:1-7).

2. God chose David and directed Israel to him as their king:

- a. He had exalted a young man from among His people.
- b. He had anointed and will sustain him just as He does us (Rom 5:1-5, Eph 2:11-22, Rom 8:28-39).
- c. He will finish what He begins (Phil 1:6). Just as the moon endures, so will his line.

3. God had chastened David.

- a. From the writer's perspective God had renounced ("made void/abhorred") the covenant...
 - Why is it that when things go wrong we often blame God rather than ourselves (Prv 19:3)?
 - Ps 139:23-24 suggests a good place to begin when adversity strikes.
 - David had met with military setbacks and his nation had suffered.
- b. The psalmist asks God, "How long?" When will Your wrath subside? (When His people repent!).
 - He asks God to remember how brief and futile human life is (Ps 90, Is 40:6-8).
 - He asks God to look on their misery (and act). He appeals to God's covenant. Do we rest in His salvation? See 2 Tim 4:9-18, 2 Cor 4).