

Psalm 89:1-(4)5

Psalm 89 is divided to be read in sections because of its length.

The commandments regarding the sabbatical and Jubilee years match this reading about the promises to David - and Christ's announcement in Luke 4 of His embodiment of the Jubilee Year.

Superscript: A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

"of Ethan the Ezrahite": He, too, was one of the five musician brothers. [See below on 88:1.] But our Sages (B.B. 15a) explained it as referring to our father Abraham, based on (Isa. 41:2): "Who aroused from the East (ממזרח)." "

Rashi [on 88:1] - "of Heman the Ezrahite": He was one of the sons of Zerah the son of Judah, for his lineage is delineated in (1 Chronicles 2:6): "And the sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Chalcol, and Darda [sic]." All five were great sages, as is said in reference to Solomon (1 Kings 5: 11): "And he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezraite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol," and they established the Psalms, which were set down in the Book of Psalms. Therefore, they are called the sons of Mahol. So have I found in exact commentaries.

Psalm 89:1 - "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

"Mercies" = *checed* - mercy, grace, love, kindness, favor, desire toward. (Translated in the LXX by *eleos* = compassion, clemency)

"The sure mercies of David" - **Psalm 89:2, 50; Psalm 107:43; Isaiah 55:3** - mercies that were bestowed on, or promised to, David by God

Here's a huge promise - Read all of Isaiah 55!

Mercy is a basic foundation of the character to God:

- **Exodus 34:6-7** - And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful (*rachuw*m - compassionate) and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness (*checed*) and truth, Keeping mercy (*checed*) for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

"faithfulness" = *'emuwnah* - firmness, fidelity, truth, security, faithfulness in fulfilling promises

Psalm 89:2 - "For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt

thou establish in the very heavens."

Rashi - For I said, "Forever will it be built with kindness": For I said, "Forever the throne of David will be built with kindness," as it is said (2 Samuel 7:13): "and I shall establish the throne of his kingdom, etc." Another explanation: I thought that the world would be built with Your kindness and that You would establish Your faithfulness in the heavens, to be established and made permanent. Now what is the faithfulness? That promise You promised David through Nathan the prophet, saying, "I formed a covenant with My chosen one to establish his seed until eternity."

This promise, i.e. David's throne, will be as firm "as the heavens, with which You will establish Your faithfulness"

The heavens in ancient thought were the ideal and permanent reality, of which events on the earth were mere shadows and reflections, time dependent and fading away eventually. David's throne would be a meeting of these, established in the heavens but also existing in the earthly realm - through the incarnation of Christ.

Psalm 89:3-4 - "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah."

- **2 Samuel 7:16** - "And thy house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever."

"My chosen" - This is the Messiah:

- **Isaiah 42:1** - "Here is My Servant, whom I uphold, My Chosen One, in whom My soul delights. I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations."

- **Luke 9:35** - "And a voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is My Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him!'"

- **Ezekiel 34:22-24** - "I will save My flock, and they will no longer be prey. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will appoint over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them. He will feed them and be their shepherd. I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be a prince among them. I, the LORD, have spoken."

- **Jeremiah 30:8-9** - "On that day, declares the LORD of Hosts, I will break the yoke off their necks and tear off their bonds, and no longer will strangers enslave them. Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."

This reading is especially significant at this time of year, when we begin thinking about Hanukkah and Christ's conception in Mary, His birth and the fulfillment of God's promises.

See Gabriel's word to Mary:

- **Luke 1:31-33** - "Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you shall give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end!"

The promises about David's "throne" are also to us if we believe:

- **Revelation 3:20-21** - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. To the one who is victorious, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

- **Revelation 5:9-10** - "...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

We are seated with Him in heavenly places now.