

Summer In The Psalms 2 - #9 – The Joyful Sound

Psalm 89:1-6, 15-18, 27-34, 52

Today, we dial up Psalm 89 in our *Summer In The Psalms* series.

Our Psalmist today is Ethan the Ezrahite. He begins...

- **Begins with singing.** *"I will sing..."*
- In the latter portion of the Psalm, **he vividly addresses suffering.** Ugly and bare. So difficult that seeing God, believing He could still love them and was still there, was a struggle.

Then tucked between is our nugget of truth today – Vs. 15-

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound."

What are some of the most joyous sounds you have heard?

- A baby's first cry.
- *"The surgery was successful."*
- *"You're cancer free."*
- *"Welcome home."*
- *"I love you."*
- *"Will you marry me?"*
- *"Mama?" "Dada?"*
- *"I forgive you."*

3000 years after the Psalmist wrote,

What are **we** supposed to see in our Psalm today?

What did God intend **for us to know this morning**. Right where we are?

What is **"the joyful sound"**?

We begin with...

I. The Exclamation.

A. The Choice To Praise – *"I Will..."*

- He exercises a choice **not affected** by circumstances –
- He makes a choice **unshackled from feelings and logic**
- Each person's super power: Our choices

B. The Causes (or Reasons) for the Praise:

God's "eternal" provisions vs. the fleeting, sometimes dark shadows of life

His constants in a world of change!

- “mercies [steadfast love] of the LORD for ever” vs. 1
- “faithfulness to all generations” vs. 1
- “Mercy [love]... for ever” vs. 2

Absolutes whether we can see or feel them.

Sometimes, believing is seeing.

C. The Covenant. Vs. 3

1. “Covenant”: More than even a promise!

A binding agreement. O.T.- A blood sealed agreement!

- Marriage is a covenant.
- In our text, God’s covenant of grace is the theme,

With David. Israel.

With Us. *What does it mean?*

1. Israel.

Very important note:

There is a pretty significant noise in religious circles of something called “replacement theology”. In short, there are some who teach that all OT promises to Abraham, David, and Israel were fulfilled in Christ and no longer apply.

“Replacement theology” is unscriptural.

The specific promises made by God to Israel and Old Testament patriarchs will be fulfilled.

God is not through with Israel, and we are not Israel.

SO, God made a covenant with David and Israel. This is called a “Messianic Psalm”. Much of it addresses that covenant and promises even yet to be kept.

2. Us: A Greater Covenant (Didn’t nullify!). A Greater Than David.

Why is it here? Why are we to learn it and live it?

I remind you, **Jesus said, “Search the Scriptures... they testify of me”.**

- There is particular truth: David, Israel.
- Then –
 - *There is a greater than David in these verses.*
 - There are timeless truths of Jesus that we are to learn and rejoice in.

2. The Significance of God’s Covenant of Grace:

God has established a Covenant of grace that will never fail. Just as there was an Old Testament, or Covenant, there is a New Testament, or Covenant!

Hebrews 12:24 –

“...Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

- Even when we can’t see it
- Even when it seems and feels otherwise
- Even when we can’t see how!

Next, from an exclamation of praise, the Psalmist leads us on an

II. The Exploration. Vs. 5-18

(Ethan the Psalmist leads us on a journey of discovery to our treasure!)

A. He asks- “*Who else but the LORD (Jehovah: Jesus)?!*” **Don’t read, reference!

- When we **look up**. Vs. 5-6a
- When we **look around**:
 - Vs. 6b-7: The **mightiest of men... are but men**. Cf. vs. 48!
 - Vs. 8 –
 - *Who is as strong?*
 - *Who is as faithful?*
 - Vs. 9 – **Nature and creation obey Him!**
- When we **look back** - Vs. 10. **“History” is “His Story!”**

- He is creator of all: vs. 11-12

His reasoning: *Who else? Where else? What else?*

Then, He continues to lead us on our journey of discovery to our treasure:

B. He acknowledges vs. 14a – God's Absolute Justice and judgment

- The acknowledged cry of our hearts!
- The absolute condemnation it brings!

Who can stand before Him?

Who is worthy of heaven?

Who can undo what they've done?

C. He announces - Vs. 15-16: God's Astounding Answer: "The Joyful Sound"

Vs. 15 - The Effect - "*Blessed is the people...*"

- "**Blessed**" – **Not..** condemned. Doomed. Broken. Afraid. Alone!
- "***the people that know***" (***All who know***)
 - Isaiah – "***Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.***" 45:22
- They will experience light and life and love!!

Vs. 15 – "*The... Sound!*"

"The" – Singular!

There is **ONE** special something – that makes all the difference!

"Sound" –

- More than a song! It is the reason to sing.
- More than something eloquent or beautiful.
- In fact, **the original word usually implied something blaring or loud and impossible to miss.**
 - Sometimes it was the sound or warning. Danger. Peril!

- In our case – It is the singularly, unmistakable sound that made joy possible to all.

Vs. 15- “*know the joyful sound*” -

So -

What is “THE” singular, heralding blast the makes Joy possible for everyone everywhere? What is the joyful sound?

Cs. 16 – They clue – *and the key!*

“In thy name”

“In thy righteousness they shall be exalted”

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

The answer: “The joyful sound”: Jehovah. Jesus! Messiah!

Isaiah –

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth” 45:22

How Isaiah?

“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

(53:2-3)

Who is “He”?

- John the Baptist: “Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world”
- The angels to Shepherds: “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy to all people.** For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”** (Lk. 2:10)

I grew up singing – “We have heard the joyful sound, *Jesus saves. Jesus saves...*”

I love the words of the song David our worship leader co-wrote and our choir sang today-

Chorus

*Freedom's calling chains are falling Hope is dawning bright and true
Day is breaking night is quaking God is making all things new
(Jesus saves) (Jesus saves)*

Verse 1

*Hear the heart of heaven beating, Jesus saves Jesus saves
And the hush of mercy breathing Jesus saves Jesus saves
Hear the host of angels sing Glory to the newborn King
And the sounding joy repeating Jesus saves*

Verse 2

*See the humblest hearts adore Him Jesus saves Jesus saves
And the wisest bow before Him Jesus saves Jesus saves
See the sky alive with praise Melting darkness in its blaze
There is light forevermore in Jesus saves*

"The joyful sound" is the gospel of Jesus!

We are out of time but not text... There is so much more.
For now, we find the ageless application of that truth in the most difficult of struggles. Let's close with

III. An Explanation Of Grace. Vs. 29-37, 52.

The rest of the Psalm deals with their struggle and intense suffering. Thankfully, he didn't start, or end there. But it is real.

- Sometimes we suffer because we live in a broken world
- Sometimes we suffer because of others
- **Sometimes we suffer because of US.**

What about His faithfulness when we've not been faithful to Him?

Have you wondered? That is nothing new. They did too!

Vs.27- The Focus turns to a greater than David – Jesus!

#1 - When we are prone to forget, God reminds us again of His promises that will never fail.

#2 - When we fail, He won't. Though we are unfaithful, He will be faithful forever!

We... vs. 30-31

Not "if" as in maybe, but "If": "when"...

- We will sin.
- We will come short.
- We will fall.

He... vs. 32-33

- Will chasten His children
- Will never leave nor forsake them; never stop loving them!

Vs. 1- "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever"

Vs. 52 – "Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen and Amen."

How? In every circumstance?. Every day?.

Faith doesn't deny the darkness. It simply refuses to let darkness have the final word.

"Blessed is the people – the man, woman, boy, girl – that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted"

What is the joyful sound?

Among all of the wondrous possibilities, there is one singular answer above them all... that actually makes them all possible:

The Joyful Sound Has A Name: Jesus!

Who can know it – know Him? "Whosoever". You!