

# The Book of PSALMS

## Psalms 85 - 88

### “Mercy & Truth - Teach Me – Zion – Affliction”

#### Psalm 85 – “Mercy & Truth – Righteousness & Peace!”

> This is a prophetic Psalm regarding Israel and their Messiah.

(v1-2) **Has this happened?** History tells us that Israel returned with a remnant of people, some 60,000 from Babylon, they were at peace for a period of time, but then came the Medo-Persians, then the Greeks, then Rome, then their dispersion throughout the whole world in 70AD. Yet, today we have seen them return just as Jesus said in Matthew ch. 24, “the parable of the fig tree;” as well as Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37. The Bible declares that unsaved Jews, as well as gentiles will go through the “Great Tribulation” (Rev. ch. 6 – 19); a remnant Jews will be saved (Romans chapters 9 – 11) and a remnant of gentiles, then comes the *Millennial reign of Christ* where Israel will experience all the promises and blessings of God through their Messiah, Jesus, who will reign and rule from Zion, the city of the great King!

(v3-7) **God answered their prayer by sending His Son Jesus, who is their Messiah to restore them, revive them, and give them cause to rejoice.** But they rejected God’s salvation and followed their own way. **Look at the opportunities they missed in regards to restoration- Matt 17:10-13- And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. They missed out on rejoicing- Luke 19:37-40- Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD! ‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’” And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”** **What about their generations and God’s anger? Matthew 11:16-19; 12:39-42; 23:31-36; remember what Peter said in his first evangelistic message- Acts 2:40-41 - “Be saved from this perverse generation.”**

(v8) **Jesus came and offered them peace- Turn to Luke 7:36-50; also Luke 8:46-48- But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” Jesus also said to us all in John 14:27-28- Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 16:33- These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**

(v9) **“that glory may dwell in our land”** – It did, when? John tells us in John 1:14- *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 11:40 displays the glory of God!*

(v10a) **“Mercy and truth met together” in Jesus – Mercy - Matthew 15:21-28; 17:14-18; 20:29-33; Truth - John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:17-18 - For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

(v10b) **“Righteousness and peace have kissed” in Jesus - The wonder of it all! The Father was in agreement for he said at the baptism of Jesus in Matt 3:17 - And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And at the Mount Of Transfiguration - Matt 17:5 - “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”**

(v12-13) All this will take place in the Millennial reign of Christ, but all that are “born again” are already making His “footsteps our pathway.” Jesus said to Peter in Matt 4:19-20- *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Matt 16:24-27- *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*

### **Psalm 86 – “Teach Me!”**

> This is a humble, heartfelt prayer of David.

(v1-5) Notice David’s requests: “*preserve my life*” – “*save your servant*” – “*be merciful to me*” – “*rejoice the soul.*” Observe David’s knowledge of the God he prays to: “*hear me*”- personal God; “*poor and needy*” – responsive God without partiality; “*trusts in you*” – dependable God; meditate on verse five; it reveals that our God is full of grace and mercy! Romans 10:8-13 tells us the same in the N.T. - *But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*

(v6-7) Our God answers our prayers! - Jer 33:3 - *Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’* John 15:7-8 - *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

(v8-10) David’s prayer is prophetic: All nations shall come and worship the LORD in the Millennial reign of Christ- Zechariah 14:16-19 - *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Rev. 15:4 - Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”* (Ps. 22:7; Is. 2:3; Zech. 8:21-22)

(v11-13) Is this our prayer? I pray it is. “*Teach me Your way*” - His way is the right way! **Truth** is at the heart of the gospel. We must learn the truth and it will set us free. “*Unite my heart to fear Your name.*” Is it? “Praise and glorify His name” Do I? Why should I? **Read verse 13.** That’s why!

(v14-17) Defend me LORD, not because of who I am, but because of who you are! *A God full of compassion and gracious, longsuffering, abundant in mercy and truth!*

### **Psalm 87 – “Zion, The City of God”**

> **Written by the sons of Korah** – Who were the descendants of Levi through Kohath, the gatekeepers and musicians in the temple at Jerusalem (1 Chr. 6:22; 9:17–32; 26:1; see all Pss. 42–49; 84, 85; 87, 88).

(v1-3) A “gate” story- Acts 3:1-10

(v4) **Rahab and Babylon.** Rahab was a monster of ancient pagan mythology and symbolized Egypt in the OT (cf. Ps. 89:10; Is. 30:7; 51:9). Two of the superpowers of the ancient world, fierce enemies of Israel, will one day worship the Lord in Zion (cf. Is. 19:19–25). **Philistia ... Tyre ... Ethiopia.** Three more Gentile nations, ancient enemies of Israel, whose descendants will worship the Lord in Jerusalem (cf. Is. 14:28–32; 18:1–7). This multinational worship is pictured as a great joy to the Lord Himself. **This one was born there.** To be born in Jerusalem will be noted as a special honor in the messianic kingdom (cf. vv. 5, 6; also Zech. 8:20–23).

(v5-6) Observe the New Testament registry- Heb 12:22-24- *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly*

*and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*

(v7) **“Springs”** is a metaphor for the source of joyful blessings. Eternal salvation, including the death and resurrection of Christ, is rooted in Jerusalem. The prophets also tell of a literal fountain flowing from the temple in Jerusalem which will water the surrounding land (cf. Joel 3:18; Ezek. 47:1–12).

### **Psalm 88 – “Affliction”**

> The psalmist has been ill or injured since the days of his youth (v. 15) and bemoans God’s failure to hear his prayer for good health. He assumes that God is angry with him, but like Job, he knows of no cause for that anger. But though he does not understand God’s ways, the psalmist does turn to God, thus indicating an underlying trust.

**(1-7) Heavy affliction!**

**(v8-10) Great question! – “Shall the dead arise and praise you?” – Mark 5:36-43; Luke 7:11-17; John 11:1-44.**

**(v11-18) More questions about life after death;** we need to take note in regards to the *after death experience* of God’s *“lovingkindness, faithfulness, wonders, & righteousness.”* **Could this is be a prophetic view (in a symbolic sense) of the life Lazarus at the gate of the rich man in Luke ch. 16:19-31. Paul writes about our glory after death in 2 Cor 5:1-8 -** *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.* **Also in Phil 3:20-21-** *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*