

Bible Study ~ June 2022

**PSALMS: The Character of GOD**

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**GOD'S Character** is known by *Providence*, **GOD** seeing before...

*Providence* is **GOD'S** ability to see beforehand... **GOD** knows (**OMINSCIENT**) and is able to see all that is going to happen and beforehand has determined how it will be used for **HIS** purpose and **Glory**.

(Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **GOD**, to them who are the called according to **HIS** purpose.")

Tonight, we begin Chapter 5 of our Book, Psalm 84-88 page 59-70; the title...

**"GOD'S Presence Offered [provided, put forward, always there] to All Who Turn to HIM!"**

Our focus tonight is on Psalm 86-88.

**Sub-Theme: "Results of Experiencing GOD'S Presence!"** [pages 66-70 of the Book]

Did you notice, to whom, Psalm 86 is ascribed? Yes, David.

Psalm 84—*Church*; Psalm 85—*Captivity*; Psalm 87—*City* (Jerusalem); Psalm 88—*Castaway*, each ascribed to 'The Sons of Korah.' But Psalm 86 is a Prayer of David.

[This is the only Davidic psalm in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of Psalms (Psalm 73: 1-89: 52). When David wrote it, he was facing some formidable: dreadful, threatening, frightful) enemies who (v. 14) said, David could not identify... at a time when he was so "poor and needy," said vs. 1, and "calling for **GOD'S** help!"] We are studying **The Character of GOD & "Results of Experiencing GOD'S Presence!"**

Read Proverbs 28: 11... The rich... dependent on one... takes all the credit... [on the inside is only hollow self-esteem] ... no dependence on **GOD** through their struggles!

In the Book of Leviticus, chapter 26, it speaks of 'Receiving **GOD'S Blessings**.'

Vss. 1-13, points out **GOD'S Blessings** because of *Obedience*. Vss. 14-44, points out **GOD'S Punishments** for *Disobedience*. Note verse 14, "...and you will run even when no one is chasing you." Note verse 36, read it!

Psalm 86—Confidence...

Vss. 1-7, **GOD'S Covenant** is *Secure*. [In vs, 2, "I am holy..."] that is, 'godly, devoted,' is not a "egotistical" statement but a declaration that David was a son of *The Covenant* and belong to **The LORD**.

--Prayer of *preservation* (support) for **GOD** is "good," (v. 5) and "great," (v. 10).

--Prayer about *problems*... but **GOD** is Great (v. 13).

--Prayer of *Praise*... (v. 12)

--Prayer about the *proud*... (v. 14) but **GOD** is Glorious (v. 15)

--Prayer for compassionate-*pity*... (v. 16)

Psalm 87 – *City*—Jerusalem. (Always “up.” The Church-house is always UP!)

--Vss. 1-3, The *City* is built by **GOD**.

--Vss. 4-6, The *City* is inhabited by **GOD’S Children**.

--V. 7, The *City* enjoys **GOD’S Abundant Blessings**.

This Psalm speaks of...

--*Passion*— “**The LORD loveth...**” vs. 2.

--*Praise*— “Glorious things are spoken about it...” vs. 3

--*Prestige*— “...that this man was born there.” v. 6. (To be born there gives more *prestige* than any other city.)

Psalm 88 is ascribed for “The Sons of Korah,” but written as *Maschil* (instructions) to Heman, the Ezrahite... the son of Joel, the Temple musician during the reign of King David (I Chronicles 6: 33, 37; 15: 17; 16: 41, 42; 2 Chronicles 35: 15).

Note, the Hebrew words “*Mahalath*” and “*Leannoth*” ... “*Mahalath*” refers to “a sad melody” and “*Leannoth*” means “*sickness*” that is purposed, to bring us *low* before **The LORD**.

[This is the last Psalm ascribed to “The Sons of Korah” and the most plaintive: mournful, sad, melancholy]

Note, this Psalm ends with the word “*darkness*,” (*hoshek*)...

--it speaks of *darkness* (vss. 1, 6, 12, 18)

--it speaks of life in the *depths* (vss. 3-4, 6)

--it speaks of the immanence of *death* (vss. 5, 10-17)

--it speaks of feelings of *drowning* (vss. 7, 16-17)

--it speaks of *loneliness* (vss. 5, 8, 14, 18)

--it speaks of *imprisonment* (v. 8)

Heman did not understand *why*... yet he persisted in “praying” to **GOD** and did not abandon his Faith.

From Heman *experience* and *instructions* we learn...

1. Vss. 1, 2, ‘To Come to **The LORD** by Faith.’
2. Vss. 3-9, ‘Tell **The LORD** how you feel.’
3. Vss. 10-14, ‘Defend your cause before **The LORD!**’
4. Vss. 15-18, ‘Wait for **The LORD’S** Answer.’