

A cry of a waiting believer – Psalm 88

(within the context of Psalms 2-89)

When life has gone awry and the only thing left to do is cry where is God? When the troubled believer is kept by the LORD in darkness for an undetermined time how is (s)he to carry on? Or another way of introducing the topic would be to ask, “what does God-honoring *waiting* look like”? Today we will look at a three fold cry to give us direction when life seems directionless.

An Overview of Books 1-3

Before we end Book Three with Ps. 88, let’s take a step back and look at the first part of the Psalter. Though the Psalter is loosely arranged, it does have obvious editorial structure that keeps it together. Notice just a few high points in books one, two and three (show slide of “charting the course” chart).

Psalm 2

At the outset of Book One we notice in Ps.2 a celebration of the LORD’s faithfulness to his covenant with David (see v.7-9; 2 Sam. 7:14). In spite of the nations plotting and raging against the anointed (see v.1-3), the LORD is sovereign and extends His rule through His anointed (i.e. messiah). The destiny of the nations (made up of individual unbelievers) is tied in to their rejection of or their submission to His kingly Son (see v. 10-12).

Psalm 41

The promise of security by the LORD through His king is echoed in Psalm 41. There is promise of Yahweh’s protection and security in the face of intimidating enemies (see v.1-2, 5, 7). This covenant assures that the King will triumph and that all under the King will be safe.

CRY #2

v.9b-12

A Persuasive cry

Seen in four rhetorical questions

His familiar actions (*wonders, steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness*) &

His fundamental goal (*to be praised / declared*) WILL NOT BE REALIZED.

(for additional thought on this type of cry see class notes on Psalm 30 under the heading *The LORD's Strategy & Purpose* Ps. 30:6-12)

CRY #3

v.13-18

An unanswered cry

After two cries, still there is no answer! There is only SUFFERING.

Suffering with no answers to the "whys"	v.14
Suffering all life long and all day long	v.15-17
Suffering without God	v.16-17
Suffering without intimate friendship	v.18a
Suffering with darkness as the only friend	v.18b

Lessons

- ☞ *The possibility of uninterrupted suffering for the believer (cf. Romans 8:23).*
 - ☞ *The difference between groaning and grumbling (cf. Phil. 2:14)*
- ☞ *The probability of unanswered questions for the believer. (cf. Deut. 29:29)*
 - ☞ *The difference between questions and questioning (cf. Luke 1:18,34)*
- ☞ *The prospect of unaided affliction for the believer (cf. 1 Peter 2:21)*
 - ☞ *The difference between alone and lonely (cf. Heb.13:5)*
- ☞ *The prominence of undistracted waiting for the believer. (cf. Isaiah 50:10)*
 - ☞ *The difference between loyalty and loitering (cf. Matt.25:5)*
- ☞ *The promise of unadulterated Light for the believer (cf. John 1:5)*
 - ☞ *The difference between the gospel and counterfeit (cf. 2Cor. 4:6)*