

PRAYING PSALM 89

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations” (Psalm 89:3-4).

This psalm attempts to reconcile the author’s seeming contradiction between his theology and his experience. The first part speaks of what the author knows to be theologically accurate: God has sovereignly chosen Israel to be His nation and David’s descendants to rule. The last part speaks of the author’s dismay that Israel had been ravaged. The psalmist refuses to explain away his theology but lives with the tension of knowing he can’t explain what he sees.

The psalm is in two parts: 1. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (1-37). I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever. Your faithfulness surrounds You. I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him, with whom My hand shall be established. My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him. My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed I will make to endure forever. My covenant I will not break. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His seed shall endure forever. 2. GOD’S APPARENT NEGLECT OF THE COVENANT (38-52). You have cast off and abhorred Your anointed. You have renounced the covenant. You have cast his throne to the ground. How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? Where are Your former loving kindnesses which You swore to David? Blessed be the Lord forevermore!

Experience and theology are sometimes hard to reconcile. God promised that David’s seed would occupy his throne forever. That necessitates that Israel will last forever. Looking at the hatred of Israel today, you might have the same questions as the psalmist. Where is the throne? Where is the King? Jesus is the promised descendant of David. He will occupy the throne of David during His future reign on earth. The only way to reconcile the apparent contradiction between the theology of Israel and their experience is to lean on the prophecies of Christ’s return and reign. In the meantime, keep praying for Israel to get ready for the return of their King.