

Series: Psalm

Title: Covenant Mercies

Text: Ps 89

Date: Oct 17, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 89: 1: «Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.» I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. 2: For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. 3: I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, 4: Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah... 13: Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, *and* high is thy right hand. 14: Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. 15: Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. 16: In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. 17: For thou *art* the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. 18 For the LORD *is* our defence; and the Holy One of Israel *is* our king. 19: Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is* mighty; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people. 20: I have found David [Christ] my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: 21: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. 22: The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. 23: And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. 24: But my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. 25: I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. 26: He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. 27: Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. 29: His seed also [all God's elect] will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

David was a type of Christ. God the Father entered everlasting covenant with his Son, typified in the sure mercies of David. Christ is the one in whom all this is accomplished. He is the King who David typified. Christ is God's Firstborn.

Psalm 89: 1: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever...

Christ sings of the LORD's mercies. He sings of those mercies in the midst of his church. Christ our Prophet, our Head, makes his people know the LORD's mercies. Christ is the sweet Psalmist of his spiritual Israel. He sings to us of his mercies. Christ gets the glory for teaching us of God's mercies. We know Psalm 22 is Christ speaking. He says,

Psalm 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

Hebrews 2: 10: For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12: Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

The LORD's mercies include everything involved in saving his people from our sins. The everlasting covenant of grace made between God the Father and his Son is a covenant of mercy. Everything included in that covenant of peace is the LORD's mercies toward chosen sinners. God electing a people to save in and by Christ is by God's pure mercy. Predestination unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself is full of God's mercies. Justification and sanctification by the doing and dying and rising of Christ our Covenant Head is God's mercies. His calling from death to life, from darkness to light, is all of God's mercies. Growth in grace and knowledge of Christ, preservation, resurrection, glorification—all is of the Lord's mercies.

“Mercies,” by the very nature of mercy, is God doing for his people what we do not deserve or merit, even when we demerit. That is the very nature of “mercies.” Until a sinner is made to understand what God says it is to be a sinner, he will not rejoice that God saves entirely according to his mercies.

God creating a new nature within a sinner and making us to know our carnal mind, our sin-nature, is enmity against God is Christ's mercy to us. Our Lord making us know, personally, that our sin-nature is hatred against God is mercy. But for God revealing this to us, we would go on in self-sufficiency. But for God's grace making us know ourselves as sinners we would never bow to Christ. God revealing our sinfulness to us is God's mercy. The Pharisee's thought within themselves that they were righteous and despised others. They could not rejoice in the LORD's mercies because they thought they needed none. God reveals to us we are sinners so that we come to Christ seeking to be saved by mercy alone.

The apostle Peter was a regenerated believer. He shows us how easily a believer can forget our need of the LORD's mercies. Peter told the Lord, "These other disciples may deny you. But I will die with you before I will deny you. I love you more than these other disciples." The Lord permitted the devil to sift Peter. The pride of Peter's sin-nature had overtaken him and deceived him. Christ had to show Peter again what he was in himself. But that was mercy. And the Lord showered him in mercies. He showed Peter again that Peter did not love him more than the other disciples. He showed Peter that apart from Christ's restraining, preserving Spirit, left to himself, Peter denied he knew Christ and went out and wept bitterly. But the Lord Jesus came to Peter singing of the LORD's mercies by converting him again from his error. That made Peter sing of the LORD's mercies. Peter sang of the Lord's mercies which the Lord taught him saying to us,

1 Peter 5: 5:...Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Psalm 89: 1...with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

Christ makes his people know God's faithfulness. "Great is thy faithfulness" (Lam 3:23).

When Christ reveals himself in our hearts, we begin in faith rejoicing in God's faithfulness. But in the beginning we know God's faithfulness more as a doctrine because we have not experienced God's faithfulness like we have after years of trial. God's faithfulness is revealed in the scriptures and by the Spirit of God in our hearts the first hour God converts us. We rejoice in God's faithfulness from the beginning.

But over time, through many trials, temptations, and sorrows, we experience God's faithfulness in Christ like Peter experienced it through his fall. Through experiencing God's mercy in the face of the weakness of our sinful flesh—our sin and self-righteousness—God makes his faithfulness toward us to be experienced. Peter experienced the Lord's faithfulness to him when Peter deserved nothing. Then, like Peter, we know by experience "great is thy faithfulness."

The more the Lord makes us experience his faithfulness and his mercies, the more we know that it is by God's faithfulness and mercies in Christ alone that we are not consumed. We experience God showering us in new mercies every morning. Christ makes his child know God's faithfulness toward us.

God's covenant is a covenant of mercies and faithfulness. God's covenant is in Christ. God's covenant is fulfilled by Christ for his people. The everlasting covenant God made with David is the same covenant God makes with each elect child who God saves. God says,

Isaiah 55: 3: Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the SURE MERCIES OF DAVID.

In David's last words David said it was the everlasting covenant made by God in Christ to him that was all his salvation. David did some good works. He defeated enemy armies. David brought the ark back. He reigned as king over Israel and David was a good king. But David did not mention one of his works. David also committed some wicked sins. He numbered Israel resulting in 80,000 dying in Israel. David was guilty of multiple counts of adultery—besides Bathsheba, David had multiple wives and concubines.

He murdered. David had many seasons of unbelief. But the same as David did not put confidence in his good works, David put no confidence his sins as being able to change God's covenant to him. With his last words he declared his only hope of salvation.

2 Samuel 23:5: Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

How was that covenant so ordered and so sure in all things? God the Father's mercies which God promised to David were sure to David, and sure to all who believe, because the everlasting covenant is between God the Father and his Son. God alone fulfilled it. The mercies are sure by Christ accomplishing our salvation. God's everlasting covenant was to Christ in eternity. Let's see that David is a type of Christ.

Acts 13 :32: And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33: God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 34: And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. 35: Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36: For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption.

David's body was eaten by worms in the grave. His body saw corruption in the grave.

Acts 13: 37: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

The Hebrew writer said, "The God of peace,...brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT" (Heb 13 20).

Acts 13: 38: Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through THIS MAN is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And BY HIM all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40: Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41: Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

Proposition: All who Christ entered covenant to save, he redeemed. Before God they are without sin, perfect, complete, righteous in Christ. They shall not perish in unbelief but shall be brought by the Holy Spirit to put all their confidence in Christ alone. They shall be saved entirely by God's covenant mercies fulfilled and freely given by Christ Jesus.

Subject: Covenant Mercies

MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS ESTABLISHED

Psalm 89: 2: Mercy shall be built up forever. thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. 3: I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, 4: Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

God the Father built up his mercy forever in Christ by Christ accomplishing eternal redemption for his people.

Christ is the First-born chosen of God in eternity to build up mercy for an elect people chosen in him. Christ is God's promised mercy himself. He is God's covenant himself. The Lord Jesus is the Seed promised from the garden. As soon as sin entered, God promised the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head (Gen 3:15).

Every promise of mercy God made to our spiritual father's was in Christ. The sure mercy promised was full forgiveness of sin and perfect righteousness through Christ's blood given freely through faith.

Abraham was saved by God's everlasting covenant mercies in Christ 430 years before the law was given. So is every elect child of God. From Adam until the last one is called, all God's people are saved by Christ fulfilling every covenant promise to God the Father on behalf of his people.

Zacharias sang of the LORD's mercies. He said God sent his Son to perform the Mercy promised.

Luke 1: 67: And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, 68: Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, 69: And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70: As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: 71: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 72: To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73: The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, 74: That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75: In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Christ is the mercy God promised to his people. He built up mercy forever. Christ is the holiness and righteousness of his people in whom every born-again child of God is holy and righteous. In Christ all his elect are blessed and shall be blessed forever. Every mercy for fallen sinners is in and by Christ—only in and by Christ. Christ is speaking. He says, "*For I have said, Mercy shall be built up forever.*" That is God the Father's promise to Christ and to his people *in* Christ. And that is Christ's promise to the Father and to his people *by* Christ.

Throughout the ages, as here in this Psalm, Christ gives his people assurance that Christ would build the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down.

Amos 9:11: In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

That fallen tabernacle is his people ruined by the fall. The desolations of many generations is God's elect in every generation ruined by Adam's fall. Christ builds up his tabernacle, his people, his church. He saves us from the ruins of sin and builds us up as Christ's holy temple.

There are two main covenants. All shall be found in one of the two. There is the covenant of works God made with Adam. And there is the everlasting covenant of grace made with Christ and fulfilled by Christ for his people.

Christ alone restores the desolations of many generations. He alone creates his people anew and builds up his house by his Righteousness. God declares it is Christ who builds up. In Christ, his mercy is established in the heavens. By Christ, his people shall be built into his holy, sinless, righteous temple.

COVENANT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON

Psalm 89: 3: I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David [Christ] my servant, 4 Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

This is Jehovah's purpose of redemption. God's covenant is to his own Son. The Father made covenant promises to his Son because of God's everlasting love for his Son and his people in his Son. God the Father blessed his elect in the council of peace when the persons of the Godhead entered covenant before the world began. He blessed us with all spiritual blessings according as he chose us in him. God's elect have been holy and without blame before him IN CHRIST THE BELOVED from eternity.

Throughout scripture, the LORD's eternal purpose of redemption is spoken of as God the Father's promise to his Son. It is in this Psalm.

Psalm 89: 19: Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is mighty*; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people. 20: I have found David [Christ] my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:...27: Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

Isaiah 49: 8: Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; 9: That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that *are* in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures *shall be* in all high places.

Titus 1: 2: In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

God's promises to David, the man, and to all his elect, are in Christ. These promises are sure by Christ putting away our sin and making us righteous. Christ is the Seed of David God promised to David. Christ builds his church, his temple forever.

2 Sam 7: 12: And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy Seed after thee [that Seed is Christ], which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13: He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14: I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, [Christ did not commit iniquity but he was made sin for his people] I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: [the chastisement of our peace was upon Christ and with his stripes his people are healed] 15: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16: And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Christ is God's mighty arm spoken of in this Psalm. Christ made mercy and truth kiss in harmony by satisfying the law in place of his people. He declared God just and Justifier of those who believe on Christ—**Psalm 89: 13: Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. 14: Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.**

HAPPY IS THE PEOPLE

Psalm 89:15: Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. 16: In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. 17: For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. 18: For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king...29: His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. 34: My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36: His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37: It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

Christ sings this joyful song of redemption to his people and Christ makes us happy. Happy is his people who know the joyful song of redemption accomplished by Christ. Christ makes the believing sinner walk in Christ the Light, the Light of God's countenance by faith.

He is our strength in whom we glory. Christ is the strength of salvation, our only strength, therefore we glory only in Christ. All God's promised mercies are sure to us in Christ.

Christ is our Defense because Christ is our Holy King who has established his throne forever. His believing people are his children. In love to his children, God our Father corrects us to keep us looking only to Christ and walking after Him. But God shall never break his everlasting covenant nor even alter his covenant because it is established in Christ the Covenant. He shall call each one and keep us all our days and Christ shall not lose one.

Have you heard the joyful sound? Those who have heard are happy and blessed. We come to Christ the Light confessing that all our works are wrought in and by Christ so that He alone has made us accepted of God. By God's grace, we continue walking by faith in Christ the Light unto the end. *Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.*

Amen!

