

THE PERSISTENCE OF FAITH

PSALM 89

Introduction:

One troubled soul becomes the voice of many. Ethan the Ezrahite gives the struggling faithful a lament they can sing before the Lord in their darkness.

This unknown man is looking upon the ruin of the beloved city of Jerusalem.

The temple is gone; the king is gone; the nation is gone. The hopes of Israel seem to have been smashed to pieces. To the eye of the world it appears that God has failed His people, that He has forgotten His promises to them. The situation in Jerusalem following the fall in 586 B.C. has created a crisis of faith to the faithful.

Ethan provides us with an example of the persistence of faith. Jesus spoke of such faith in his parable about the needy widow who kept bombarding a reluctant and un-principled judge with her need until he had pity on her.

Jesus closed this admonition concerning prayer with the question, “When the Son of Man comes will he find such faith upon the earth?” The kind of faith demonstrated in this lament by Ethan is the kind needed in a generation like ours. Across the Western world it may appear that God has abandoned His people. In many places the church seems to lie in ruins—is there any hope?

What do the faithful do when God seems to have forgotten His promises to His people?

I. PERSISTENT FAITH CONTINUES TO SING. (V. 1-2)

1. Of the mercies of the Lord.
2. Of the faithfulness of the Lord.

II. PERSISTENT FAITH FEEDS ON GOD'S PROMISES. (V, 3-37)

1. As expressed in His covenant.
2. As confirmed through His prophets.

III. PERSISTENT FAITH ACKNOWLEDGES GOD'S
JUDGMENTS. (V. 38-45)

IV. PERSISTENT FAITH CONFRONTS THE APPARENT
CONTRADICTIONS WITH PRAYER. (V. 46-51)

1. A prayer for God to remember His people. (v. 47, 50)
2. A prayer for God to remember His covenant. (v. 49)