

## SECTION OUTLINE EIGHTY-NINE (PSALM 89)

In the midst of trouble, the psalmist celebrates God's everlasting and unconditional covenant with David and his descendants, including the special covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7) in regard to his royal throne.

- I. THE PRAISE (89:1–37): The author offers thanks for four things.
  - A. **God's person** (89:1–2, 5–8, 14)
    1. *For his mercy, love, faithfulness, and miracles* (89:1–2, 5)
    2. *For his uniqueness* (89:6–8): No one compares to him.
    3. *For his righteousness and justice* (89:14) : His throne is founded on these.
  - B. **God's power** (89:9–13)
    1. *He creates all things* (89:11–13): He is strong and powerful.
    2. *He rules over the sea* (89:9) : He subdues the waves and storms.
    3. *He crushes his enemies* (89:10) : He also scatters them.
  - C. **God's provisions** (89:15–18): He gives to his people strength and joy!
  - D. **God's promise** (89:3–4, 19–37): This promise has to do with the Davidic covenant.
    1. *The person* (89:3, 19–20): God himself made this covenant with King David.
    2. *The duration* (89:4, 28–29, 35–37): The covenant is unconditional and unending.
    3. *The method* (89:19–20): It is given in a vision from a prophet, probably Nathan, who then communicates it to David.
    4. *The features* (89:21–27, 30–34)
      - a. God will personally steady David (89:21) : God will make him strong.
      - b. David will be victorious over his foes (89:22–23): God will destroy those who hate him.
      - c. He will have God's faithfulness and unfailing love (89:24) : He will rise to power.
      - d. He will rule from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the Mediterranean Sea (89:25) .
      - e. He will enjoy a relationship with God (89:26) : God will be his Father, his God, and the Rock of his salvation.
      - f. He will become God's firstborn son (89:27) : He will become the mightiest king on earth.
      - g. The covenant will prevail in spite of any sins committed by David's royal descendants (89:30–34): The covenant is everlasting, but sins committed by David's descendants will be punished.
- II. THE PROBLEM (89:38–45): How can God's present rejection of Israel be reconciled to the Davidic covenant?
  - A. **The time** (89:38–39): The psalmist seems to be describing the Babylonian Captivity.
  - B. **The tragedy** (89:40–45)
    1. *The Temple has been defiled* (89:40) : Its protection is gone.
    2. *The city of God has been destroyed* (89:40–45): David's enemies mock him because of his loss of power.

- III. THE PLEA (89:46–52): The psalmist calls upon God to remember two things and show himself strong.
- A. **Our lives are short, empty, and futile** (89:46–48): Everyone will die.
  - B. **God's love is unfailing** (89:49–52).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ps 89). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.