

## Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 89

1/17/13

Vs. 1-4 speak of God's faithfulness;  
Vs. 5-14 point to reasons for God's impressiveness;  
Vs. 15-18 show the happiness of those who serve God;  
Vs. 19-37 give more details of God's covenant about a king;  
Vs. 38-52 present a problem before God.

This Psalm is from "Ethan the Ezrahite" ([1 Kings 4:30-31](#)), one of the men Solomon was wiser than! Many references to a king fit Jesus Christ as the one promised through David's kingly lineage. Thus, "the assembly of the saints" (**verses 5, 7**) dwell on God's "wonders," selection of Jesus as the Christ, and focus on respect ("fear") of God, not men ([2 Corinthians 4:5](#)).

**Verses 1-4:** God's faithfulness is a reason to "sing" (**verse 1**), for it is based upon "mercy" (**verse 2**). The "covenant" is to set a descendant ("seed") of David on a throne "forever" (**verses 3-4**). This was promised in [2 Samuel 7:11-17](#), a basis for obeying Jesus Christ in [Acts 2:25-33](#), and remembered in the New Testament ([Romans 1:1-4](#)).

**Verses 5-14:** God can fulfill that covenant because He, alone: does these "wonders" (**verse 5**); is mightier than the mighty (**verse 6**); "feared" and "reverenced" in "the assembly of the saints" (**verse 7**), surrounded by faithfulness (**verse 8**). It is God, alone who: rules and stills a raging sea (**verse 9**); defeats "Rahab" (Egypt) and scatters enemies (**verse 10**); owns "the heavens" and the fullness of the world (**verse 11**); gave Promised Land to the Israelites, from "north" to "south" and Mounts Tabor and Hermon (east and west) (**verse 12**); unquestioned authority (**verse 13**); a throne based upon "righteousness and justice," actions based upon "mercy and truth" (**verse 14**). God can promise an eternal king on a throne in Heaven because He promised and gave His people a land on Earth!

**Verses 15-18:** "Blessed" (happy) are the people who want God to be satisfied with them (**verse 15**); "all day long" (we say, "24/7") they rejoice in God's name (**verse 16**); because they walk in His "glory" and "favor" (**verse 17**); who are protected by His "shield" and ruled by "the Holy One of Israel" (**verse 18**). The virgin, Mary, was pregnant with "that Holy One" ("the Son of God," [Luke 1:35](#)); demons confessed Jesus Christ was "the Holy One of God" ([Luke 4:34](#)); the Apostles preached Jesus Christ was "Your Holy One" prophesied by David ([Acts 2:27](#); [Psalm 16:10](#)); the Jews had crucified "the Holy One" ([Acts 3:14](#));

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*



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the Holy Spirit was sent upon Christians in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century by "the Holy One" (1 John 2:20). It is Jesus Christ being singled out as the fulfillment of God's plan discussed in **Psalm 89:19-37!**

**Verses 19-37:** God has: revealed His plan to David (**verse 19**); stated His covenant began with David (**verse 20**), will be fulfilled through David (**verse 21**); David (and his lineage!) will be protected (**verses 22-23**). Beyond David, Jesus Christ would be: given authority by God (**verse 24; Matthew 28:18**); given widespread power (**verse 25**); confessing God as Father (**verse 26; John 5:18**); "firstborn" from the dead (**verse 27; Colossians 1:15-18**); given to "mercy" (**verse 28; Matthew 9:27-30**); of David's "seed" (**verse 29; Romans 1:1-4**). Back to David, God decreed: sins of "his sons" would be punished (**verses 30-32**); this covenant would not be annulled (**verses 33-34**); this covenant was sworn by God and upon God's "holiness" (**verse 35**); the throne of David would not be on earth for it would "endure forever," be as permanent as the "sun," "established forever like the moon," (**verses 36-37**) none of which would be true if the fulfillment was in an earthly throne!

**Verses 38-52:** To the Psalmist, it seems, God's punishments are so great as to keep His covenant with David from coming true (**verses 38-45**). Human impatience is voiced in **verses 46-48**, because humans must certainly die in a relatively short time to us. The plea is for God to remember His Davidic covenant and let it be seen in their lifetimes, that it will be done (**verses 49-51**). In **verse 52**, the Psalm ends in faithful confidence, with a positive praise for "the LORD."

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