

Reflection on Psalm 88

Psalm 88 is the darkest of all the Psalms.

The other Psalms of lament include a statement of trust,
normally at the end.

Psalm 88 ends in
darkness,
agony, and
near despair.

It offers no expression of trust in God.

Well, almost none.

By the time we reach the blackness of the ending,
“darkness is my closest friend (v.18b, NIV),”

it’s easy to forget the opening words of the Psalm,
“O Lord, the God of my salvation (v.1a, NASB).”

That is the only overt statement of faith
the psalmist can muster.

But there is one other,
one that is not overt

but stands behind the entire Psalm:

despite feeling utterly abandoned by God,
overwhelmed by wave after wave of
terror and
pain,

he continues to pray.

Praying to God
in brutal honesty
is itself an expression of faith.

Has anyone experienced
all the horrors of death
as fully as God’s own Son,
Jesus Christ?

He felt that God had utterly deserted Him,
yet He continued to pray and
continued to trust,
even as the anguish of death consumed Him.

When you feel
abused,
rejected, and

forgotten by God,
continue to bring your prayer to Him.
Sometimes that is the
richest gift we can offer.

Hymn: Psalm 88

© 2021 Ken Bible, LNW@LNWhymns.com.