

The Psalm Project

Discovering the Spiritual World through the Psalms

Psalm 89

Rev. Dr. Michael Harvey Koplitz

The Goal of this project:

This research project will examine the 150 psalms for the spiritual awareness each Psalm offers. Each Psalm will be examined by its language and the commentary of the Sages. The spiritual awareness analysis will be done in alignment with Ari's definition of the Tree of life, the Book of Creation, and the Zohar. Each verse of the Psalm will be rewritten using the intent of the language and spiritual commentary to convey its spiritual lesson.

The Main Resources:

The Zohar

The Book of Creation

Ari's writing on the Tree of Life and the Ten Sefirot

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Samson Hirsch's commentary on the Psalms

Tehillim – Psalms – A new translation with a commentary anthologized from the Talmudic and rabbinic sources

Accordance Bible Software

Psalm 89

New American Standard 1995

Psa. 89:0 A [†]Maskil of [°]Ethan [^]the Ezrahite.

Psa. 89:1 I will "sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever;

To all generations I will ^bmake known Your 'faithfulness with my mouth.

For I have said, "aLovingkindness will be built up forever;

In the heavens You will establish Your ^bfaithfulness."

"I have made a covenant with "My chosen;

I have ^bsworn to David My servant,

I will establish your "seed forever And build up your bthrone to all generations." Selah.

Psa. 89:5 The "heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD;

Your faithfulness also bin the assembly of the holy ones.

⁶ For "who in the skies is comparable to the LORD?

Who among the ¹/_bsons of the mighty is like the LORD,

⁷ A God ^agreatly feared in the council of the ^bholy ones,

And 'awesome above all those who are around Him?

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, "who is like You, O mighty ¹LORD?

Hebrew

2 : בַּשְׁבָּׁיל לָאֵיתָן הָאֵזְרָחֵי Psa. 89:1 חַסְרֵי וָהוָה עוֹלֵם אַשִּׁירָה לְּרְׁר ודר ואודיע אמונתד בפי לַיהוָה יִרְמֵּה לַיהוַה בַּבְנֵי ואַלהַי צָבָאוֹת מֵי־כַמִּוֹדְּ ויה ואמונתך סביבותיף: 10 אַתָּה כָזוֹשׁל בְּגַאִוּת הַיָּם בִּשִּׂוֹא גַּלַיו אַמַה תִשַּבְּחֵם: יי אַמַה דְּכַּאתַ ל ההב בורוע עוד פורת תַבַל וֹמַלאָה אַתַה יָסַרַתַּם: יּי צַפוֹן וָיָמִין אַתָּה בָרָאתָם תַּבְוֹר וְחֵרִמוֹן בּשָׁמָדֶּ יִרַנֵּנוּ: יּי לִדְּ זְרוֹעַ עִם־ וּבוּרֶה מָעֹז יָרד מָרוּם יִמִינֵד : בּי צֶרֶק וְמִשְׁפַּט מָכוֹן כַּסָאֵדְּ חֵסָר Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

You rule the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You "still them.

You Yourself crushed ¹aRahab like one who is slain;

You ^bscattered Your enemies with ²Your mighty arm.

Psa. 89:11 The "heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours;

The ^bworld and ¹all it contains, You have founded them.

The "north and the south, You have created them;

^bTabor and ^cHermon ^dshout for joy at Your name.

You have ¹a strong arm;

Your hand is mighty, Your "right hand is exalted.

¹⁴ "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

^bLovingkindness and ¹truth go before You.

How blessed are the people who know the ¹ajoyful sound!

O LORD, they walk in the ^blight of Your countenance.

In "Your name they rejoice all the day,

And by Your righteousness they are exalted.

For You are the glory of "their strength,

And by Your favor ¹our ¹horn is exalted.

For our "shield belongs to the LORD,

¹And our king to the ^bHoly One of Israel.

וֹאֵמֶת יָקַדִּלָּוּ פָּגֵיך : יּי אַשְׁרֵי הֻעָּם יוֹרָעֵי תָרוּעָה יִהוַה בַּאוֹר־פַּנֵיךּ יָהַלֶּכִוּן: זּי בַּשָּׁמָד יִגִּילְוּן כַּל־הַיְּוֹם וּבִצְּדְקַתְּדְ יַרִוּמוּ: 18 כֵּי־תִפְּאֵרָת עַוָּמוֹ אָתַה וֹבִרְצֹוָךְ תַּרִים [תַּרְוּם] קרונו: יי בִּי ֻלַיהוָה מָגוּגֵנוּ וְלִקְּדָוֹשׁ יִשִּׂרָאֵל כַּזִלְבֵּנוּ : 20 אָז דִּבַּרְתָּ־בְּחָזוֹן לַחַסִידִיך וַתּאֹמֵר שִׁוָּיתִי עֵזֵר וָבָּור הַרִימָותִי בַחוּר מֵעַם: 12 משַתתּיו: 2 אַשֶּר יַדִי תִּכּון עִמָּו אַר־זְרוֹעִי תאַפּזצֵנּוּ : בּי לֹא־יַשֵּׁא אוֹיֵב בִּוֹ וּבֵן־עַוֹלָה לְאׁ יִעַנֵּנוּ : 24 וְכַתּוֹתֵי מִפַּנֵיו צַרֵיו וּמִשַּׂנְאֵיוּ אַוֹרָ: בַּוֹאֱמוּנָתֵי וְחַסְרֵּי עִמְוֹ וֹבִשָּׁמִי תָּרָוּם קַרְנְוֹ : 20 וְשַׂבִּוֹתֵי בַיַּם יַרוֹ וְבַנְהַרוֹת יִמִינִוֹ : י׳ הוּא יֵקרַאֵנִי יַאָּבִי אָָתָּה אֵלִי וִצְוּר יִשׁוּעָתֵי : 28 אַרְ־אָנִי בִּכְוֹר אַתִּנָחוּ עַלִיוֹן ַלְמַלְבֵי־אָָרֶץ: ״ לְעוֹלֶם אֵשִׁמוֹר־ [אַשְּמַר]־לָוֹ חַסָּדֵי וֹבְרִיתִי נַאָמַנַת תורָתִי וּבִנִּזשִׁפַּטַי לא וֵלֵכוּן: 32 אָם־חַלְּתֵי יַחַלֶּלוּ וֹמַצַוֹתֵי לֹא וּבְנגַעֵים עַוֹנָם: 34 וַחַסְדִּי לָאֹ־אַפִּיר מַעמוֹ וַלָּא־אַשַקר בַּאַמוּנַתִי: 35

Psa. 89:19 ¹Once You spoke in vision to Your godly ²ones,

And said, "I have ³given help to one who is ^amighty;

I have exalted one ^bchosen from the people.

"I have "found David My servant; With My holy boil I have anointed him.

With whom "My hand will be established;

My arm also will bstrengthen him.

"The enemy will not ¹deceive him, Nor the ²ason of wickedness afflict him.

²³ "But I shall "crush his adversaries before him,

And strike those who hate him.

"My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him,

And in My name his ^bhorn will be exalted.

"I shall also set his hand on the sea

And his right hand on the rivers.

"He will cry to Me, 'You are "my

Father,

My God, and the ^brock of my salvation.'

"I also shall make him My "firstborn,"

The ^bhighest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸ "My ^alovingkindness I will keep for him forever,

And My become shall be confirmed to him.

²⁹ "So I will establish his ¹adescendants forever

ַלֹא־אַחַלֵל בִּרִיתִי וּמוֹצָא שְׁפְתַׁי לא אַשַנָּה: 36 אַחַת נִשְׁבַּעִתִּי בְקָרְשָׁי אָם־לְרָוָר אַכַוַּב: ״ זַרעוֹ לעובם יהנה וכסאו בשמש נגדי: יּבְיָרַתַ יִבְּוֹן עוֹלָם וִעֵר בַּשַּׁתַק 🌤 נאָמַן מֶלָה: ייּ וִאַתָּה זַנַּחָתַּ וַתִּמְאָס הָתִעַבַּרָתָּ עִם־כִּישִׁיחֵדְּ : יּינַאַרַתַּה בַּרֵית עַבָּהֵדְ חָלֵּלְתָּ לָאָרִץ נִזְרַוֹּ : ייּ מתתה: 4 שַּׁסָּהוּ כַּל הַנָה חֶרְפַּה לְשָׁכָנֵיוֹ : 43 הַרְיֹמוֹתְ יָבָין צָרָיו הִשָּׁבַזחָתָּ כַּל־אוֹיבֵיו: ייּ אַף־קָשִׁיב צְוּר חַרבָּוֹ וִלְאׁ הַׁקִּימֹתׁוֹ בַּמָּלְחַמָּה: 15 הָשָׁבַתַּ מִשְּהַרוֹ וֹכִסָאוֹ לַאָרֶץ מָנֵרְתַּה: זּ הַקּצְרְתַּ מִי עַלוּמַיו הַעַמִּית עַלַיו בּוּשֵׁה ַסַלַה∶ זי עַר־מַה יָהוַה תִּפַתֵּר לַנצַח הַבעַר כּמוֹ־אָשׁ חַמַּתְדָּ : 48 זְכָר־אֲנִי מֶה־חָלֵר עַל־מַה־שָׁוֹא בָּרָאתָ כָל־בְּנִי־אָדָם: יּ מֻּי גֶבֶר יַחָיֵה וְלָא יִרְאָה־מָּוֵת יִמַּלֵּט נַפִּשְׁוֹ הראשנים ואדני נשבעת כ באמונתד: זכר אדני חרפת ַבַבֶּיךָ שָּׁאֵתִי בִּחֵיקִי כָּל־ עַמָּים: 2 אַשָׁר חַרִפָּוּ אוֹיִבֵּיך יָהוָה אֲשֶׁר חַרפוּ עִקְבוֹת מִשִּׁיחֵדְ: ברוך יהוה לעולם אמן וואמן: 50 ברוף And his ^bthrone ^cas the days of heaven.

Psa. 89:30 "If his sons "forsake My law

And do not walk in My judgments,

If they ¹violate My statutes
And do not keep My
commandments,

Then I will punish their transgression with the "rod"

And their iniquity with stripes.

"But I will not break off "My lovingkindness from him,

Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness.

"My "covenant I will not ¹violate, Nor will I ^balter ²the utterance of My lips.

³⁵ "¹Once I have ^asworn by My holiness;

I will not lie to David.

"His ¹adescendants shall endure forever

And his ^bthrone ^cas the sun before Me.

"It shall be established forever "like the moon,

And the ^bwitness in the sky is faithful." ¹Selah.

Psa. 89:38 But You have "cast off and brejected,"

You have been full of wrath ¹against Your ⁶anointed.

You have "spurned the covenant of Your servant;

You have ^bprofaned ^chis crown ¹in the dust.

40 You have "broken down all his walls;

You have ^bbrought his strongholds to ruin.

⁴¹ ⁴All who pass along the way plunder him;

He has become a ^breproach to his neighbors.

You have "exalted the right hand of his adversaries;

You have ^bmade all his enemies rejoice.

You also turn back the edge of his sword

And have "not made him stand in battle.

You have made his ¹asplendor to cease

And cast his throne to the ground.

You have "shortened the days of his youth;

You have becovered him with shame. Selah.

Psa. 89:46 "How long, O LORD?

Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your bwrath burn like fire?

"Remember ¹what my span of life is;

For what ^bvanity ²You have created all the sons of men!

What man can live and not "see death?

Can he ^bdeliver his soul from the ¹power of ²Sheol? Selah.

Psa. 89:49 Where are Your former lovingkindnesses, O Lord,

Which You "swore to David in Your faithfulness?

Remember, O Lord, the "reproach of Your servants;

¹How I bear in my bosom *the* repreach of all the many peoples,
⁵¹ With which avoir in the second of the secon

With which "Your enemies have reproached, O LORD,

With which they have reproached the footsteps of 'Your anointed.

Psa. 89:52 "Blessed be the LORD forever!

Amen and Amen.

References

Psalm 89:0

^aPs 59:16; 101:1

^bPs 40:10

Ps 36:5; 88:11; 89:5, 8, 24, 33, 49; 92:2; 119:90; Is 25:1; Lam 3:23

Psalm 89:2

^aPs 103:17

^bPs 36:5; 119:90

Psalm 89:3

^a1 Kin 8:16

^bPs 132:11

Psalm 89:4

¹Selah may mean: Pause, Crescendo or Musical interlude

^a2 Sam 7:16

^b2 Sam 7:13; Is 9:7; Luke 1:33

Psalm 89:5

^aPs 19:1; 97:6

^bPs 149:1

Job 5:1

Psalm 89:6

¹Or sons of gods

^aPs 86:8; 113:5

^bPs 29:1; 82:1

Psalm 89:7

^aPs 47:2; 68:35; 76:7, 11

^bPs 89:5

^ePs 96:4

Psalm 89:8

¹Heb YAH

^aPs 35:10; 71:19

Psalm 89:9

^aPs 65:7; 107:29

Psalm 89:10

¹I.e. Egypt ²Lit the arm of Your might ^aPs 87:4; Is 30:7; 51:9 ^bPs 18:14; 68:1; 144:6

Psalm 89:11

¹Lit its fullness ^aGen 1:1; 1 Chr 29:11; Ps 96:5 ^bPs 24:1

Psalm 89:12

^aJob 26:7 ^bJosh 19:22; Judg 4:6; Jer 46:18 Deut 3:8; Josh 11:17; 12:1; Ps 133:3; Song 4:8 ^aPs 98:8

Psalm 89:13

¹Lit an arm with strength ^aPs 98:1; 118:16

Psalm 89:14

¹Or faithfulness ^aPs 97:2 ^bPs 85:13

Psalm 89:15

¹Or blast of the trumpet, shout of joy "Lev 23:24; Num 10:10; Ps 98:6 bPs 4:6; 44:3; 67:1; 80:3; 90:8

Psalm 89:16

^aPs 105:3

Psalm 89:17

¹Another reading is *You exalt our horn*^aPs 28:8
^bPs 75:10; 92:10; 148:14

Psalm 89:18

¹Or Even to the Holy One of Israel our King ^aPs 47:9 ^bPs 71:22; 78:41

Psalm 89:19

¹Or At that time ²Some mss read one ³Lit placed help upon ^a2 Sam 17:10 ^b1 Kin 11:34; Ps 78:70

Psalm 89:20

^a1 Sam 13:14; 16:1-12; Acts 13:22 ^b1 Sam 16:13

Psalm 89:21

^aPs 18:35; 80:17 ^bPs 18:32

Psalm 89:22

¹Or exact usury from him ²Or wicked man ^a2 Sam 7:10; Ps 125:3

Psalm 89:23

^a2 Sam 7:9; Ps 18:40

Psalm 89:24

^aPs 89:1 ^bPs 132:17

Psalm 89:25

^aPs 72:8

Psalm 89:26

^a2 Sam 7:14; 1 Chr 22:10; Jer 3:19 ^b2 Sam 22:47; Ps 95:1

Psalm 89:27

"Ex 4:22; Ps 2:7; Jer 31:9; Col 1:15, 18

^bNum 24:7; Ps 72:11; Rev 19:16

Psalm 89:28

^aPs 89:33

^bPs 89:3, 34

Psalm 89:29

¹Lit seed

^aPs 18:50; 89:4, 36

^b1 Kin 2:4; Ps 89:4; 132:12; Is 9:7; Jer 33:17

Deut 11:21

Psalm 89:30

^a2 Sam 7:14; Ps 119:53

Psalm 89:31

¹Lit *profane*

Psalm 89:32

^aJob 9:34; 21:9

Psalm 89:33

^a2 Sam 7:15

Psalm 89:34

¹Lit *profane*

²Lit that which goes forth

^aDeut 7:9; Jer 33:20, 21

^bNum 23:19

Psalm 89:35

¹Or One thing

^aPs 60:6; Amos 4:2

Psalm 89:36

¹Lit seed

^aPs 89:29; Luke 1:33

^bPs 72:5

^ePs 72:17

Psalm 89:37

¹Selah may mean: Pause, Crescendo or Musical interlude ^aPs 72:5

^bJob 16:19

Psalm 89:38

¹Lit with

^aPs 44:9

^bDeut 32:19; 1 Chr 28:9

Ps 20:6; 89:20, 51

Psalm 89:39

¹Lit to the ground

^aPs 78:59; Lam 2:7

^bPs 74:7

^eLam 5:16

Psalm 89:40

^aPs 80:12

^bLam 2:2, 5

Psalm 89:41

^aPs 80:12

^bPs 44:13; 69:9, 19; 79:4

Psalm 89:42

^aPs 13:2

^bPs 80:6

Psalm 89:43

^aPs 44:10

Psalm 89:44

¹Lit clearness, luster

^aEzek 28:7

Psalm 89:45

^aPs 102:23

^bPs 44:15; 71:13; 109:29

Psalm 89:46

^aPs 13:1; 44:24

^bPs 79:5; 80:4

Psalm 89:47

¹Lit of what duration I am ²Or have You...men? ^aJob 7:7; 10:9; 14:1 ^bPs 39:5; 62:9; Eccl 1:2; 2:11

Psalm 89:48

¹Lit *hand*²I.e. the nether world
^aPs 22:29; 49:9
^bPs 49:15

Psalm 89:49

^a2 Sam 7:15; Jer 30:9; Ezek 34:23

Psalm 89:50

¹Lit My bearing in my bosom ^aPs 69:9; 74:18, 22

Psalm 89:51

^aPs 74:10, 18, 22 ^bPs 89:38

Psalm 89:52

^aPs 41:13; 72:19; 106:48

Targum

Psa. 89:1 A good lesson uttered by Abraham, who came from the east. ² I will praise the kindness of the LORD forever; from generation to generation I will make known your truth with my mouth. ³ For I said, "The world will be built by kindness; you will establish your truth in the heavens." 4 I made a covenant with Abraham my chosen; I confirmed it with my servant David. ⁵ I will establish your sons forever; and for every generation I will build your royal throne forever. ⁶ And the heavens will confess your wonders, O LORD; also your truth in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁷ For who in the clouds can be set beside the LORD? Who resembles the LORD in the multitudes of angels? 8 God is mighty in the mysteries of the holy ones; sitting on the throne of glory, great and fearsome over all the angels who stand around him. 9 O LORD God above the hosts of the height, who is like you in strength, O LORD? And your truth is around you. ¹⁰ You rule over the pride of the sea; when its waves increase and become high, you will subdue them. 11 You have crushed Rahab, that is, wicked Pharaoh, like one slain by the sword; with the might of your strong arm you have scattered your enemies. ¹² Yours is the heaven, yea, yours is the earth; you have founded the world and all its contents. 13 The deserts in the north and those who dwell in the south, you created them; Tabor in the west and Hermon in the east sing praise in your name. ¹⁴ Yours is the arm with strength; your hand will be strong to redeem your people; your right hand will be raised to perfect your sanctuary. 15 Righteousness and justice are the dwelling place of your glorious throne; favor and truth go before your face. ¹⁶ Happy the people who know to please their creator with a shout; O LORD, in the splendid light of your countenance they will walk and be acquitted in judgment. ¹⁷ In your name they will rejoice all day, and by your righteousness they will be exalted. ¹⁸ For you are the splendor of their strength, and by your will their horn is exalted. ¹⁹ For our shields belong to the LORD, and our king belongs to the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. ²⁰ Then you spoke in a vision to your pious ones, and you said, "I have set up a helper for my people by the hand of one mighty in Torah; I have set apart a youth from among the people." ²¹ I have found David my servant, with the holy oil I anointed him. ²² Whom my hands are ready to help; truly my arm will strengthen him. 23 The enemy will not make him go astray; the son of wickedness will not afflict him. 24 And I will crush his oppressors before him, and I will smite his foes. 25 And my truth and goodness are with him; in the name of my word his glory will be exalted. ²⁶ And I will place his dominion at the harbors of the sea, and the might of his right hand on those who dwell by the rivers. ²⁷ He will call to me, "You are my father (abba), my God, and the strength of my redemption." 28 Also I will make him first-born of the kings of the house of Judah, the highest of the kings of the earth. 29 I will preserve my goodness to him forever; and my covenant is constant for him. 30 And I will set up his sons forever, and his throne for as many days as the heavens will last. ³¹ If his sons abandon my Torah, and do not walk in my judgments, ³² If they violate my covenant, and do not keep my commandments, ³³

Then I will punish their rebellions by means of the rod of the wicked, and their iniquities by the demons that plague them. ³⁴ But my goodness I will not revoke from him, and I will not be false to my faithfulness. 35 I will not violate my covenant, and the utterance of my lips I will not change. ³⁶ Once I have sworn by my holy name: "I will not lie to David." ³⁷ His sons will exist forever, and his throne is bright as the sun before me. ³⁸ Like the moon that is set for an eternal sign, and a faithful witness in the sky forever. ³⁹ But you have forsaken and rejected, grown angry with your anointed. 40 You have changed the covenant with your servant; you have profaned his crown to the earth. 41 You have forced all his strongholds, you have made his open villages a ruin. 42 All who pass on the road have trampled him; he has become a disgrace to his neighbors. 43 You have raised the right hand of his oppressors; you have gladdened all his enemies. 44 Also you will turn aside his sword and you have not supported him in battle. 45 You have abolished the priests who sprinkle [blood] on the altar and cleanse his people, and you have cast to the ground his royal throne. 46 You have cut short the days of his young men; you have covered him with shame and disgrace forever. 47 How long, O LORD, will you remove your presence forever? [How long] will your rage burn like fire? 48 Remember that I was created from dust; why have you created all the sons of men for vanity? ⁴⁹ Who is the man who will live and not see the angel of death, who will deliver his soul from his hand, and not go down to his grave forever? 50 Where are your favors which were from the beginning, O LORD, which you swore to David in your faithfulness? 51 Remember, O LORD, the disgrace of your servant; I have borne in my bosom all the insults of many peoples. 52 For your enemies have scorned, O LORD, for they have scorned the delay of the footsteps of your Messiah, O LORD. 53 Blessed be the name of the LORD in this age, amen and amen. Blessed be the name of the LORD in the age to come, amen and amen. --

Spiritual Awareness

Introduction

This Psalm records the agreement that the LORD struck with King David. The LORD promised that if David and his offspring remained faithful to Him, He would be true to them. However, exile and suffering would occur if the offspring betrayed the covenant.

Superscript

"Ethan the Ezrahite is the songwriter-author of Psalm 89. The title of that Psalm says it is "a maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite." In addition to Psalm 89, Ethan the Ezrahite is mentioned in 1 Kings 4:31 as a wise man, yet not as wise as King Solomon, who "was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite." First Chronicles 2:6 gives the added information that Ethan had four brothers and was the son of Zerah (called of Mahol in 1 Kings 4:31). He of the tribe Levi. was

First Chronicles 15:17 mentions an Ethan who was involved with bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Since he is called "Ethan the son of Kushaiah," he is probably a different person from the author of Psalm 89. However, 1 Chronicles 15:19 adds that the son of Kushaiah was a musician, one of the men to sound the bronze cymbals, and this had led some scholars to assume a link between the two Ethans. If they are the same person, then Ethan the Ezrahite is probably also known as Jeduthun (1 Chronicles 16:38–42 and the titles of Psalms 62 and 77)."¹

¹ GotQuestions.org, "Home," GotQuestions.org, March 23, 2015, https://www.gotquestions.org/Ethan-the-Ezrahite.html.

Verse four

I shall prepare your descendants forever and shall build up your throne for generations upon generations. Meditate on this verse.

Verse thirty-seven

As the moon shall be established forever, he shall remain a faithful witness in the sky. Meditate on this verse.

Verse forty-six

You have caused the days of his youth to be short and have spread shame over him. Meditate on this verse.

Verse forty-eight

Where is there a man who truly lives and shall not see death, who knows how to deliver his soul from the power of the grave? Meditate on this verse.

Appendix







