

(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

Psalm 88

♩ = 50 *Refrain* 5th time to Coda ⊕

Cm Cm/Bb Ab G+ Fm Fm/D Fm/Ab G7 Cm Cm/Bb Ab G

Unison

O my God, God my Sav - ior! O my God, my God,

1 2,3,4

Fm9 G+ Cm Cm/G Fm9 G+ Cm

Still I cry to You! Still I cry to You!

Cm Eb Eb/G Cm Ab Fm G7/D Cm Cm9/Bb Ab

1. A - ban-doned at the gates of death, Ter-rors grip my soul, A - lone, a - afraid, with
 2. My clos-est friends are far a - way; Lone-some is the grave. I long for light, but
 3. So why ig-nore me, lov-ing God? Si-lence with-out end! The dark-ness that I

D.C. ⊕ Coda

Eb/G Cm Fm9 Ab G sus G Fm9 G+ Cm

noth-ing left, Dark - ness in con-trol. Still I cry to You!
 on - ly pain, Wave on an-gry wave.
 long had feared Now my on - ly friend!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

POOR MOURNER
8.5.8.5.w.Ref.

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TOPICS: Lament; Psalm Hymns; Tunes, Folk; Tunes, Spirituals

LEAD-IN: *Lord, the God of my salvation,
I have cried out by day and in the night before You.
For my soul has had enough troubles,
And my life has approached Sheol.
Abandoned among the dead,
Like the slain who lie in the grave,
Whom You no longer remember,
And they are cut off from Your hand.
You have put me in the lowest pit,
In dark places, in the depths.
Your wrath has rested upon me,
And You have afflicted me with all Your waves.*
(Psalm 88:1, 3, 4-7, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

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.

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