

We Will Get Through This: "When Dark Times Persist 5/10/2020
Psalm 88

Review:

Psalms

Our Culture

- ¹ *Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.*
- ² *May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.*
- ³ *I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.*
- ⁴ *I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.*
- ⁵ *I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.*
- ⁶ *You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.*
- ⁷ *Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.*
- ⁸ *You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape;*
- ⁹ *my eyes are dim with grief.
I call to you, Lord, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.*
- ¹⁰ *Do you show your wonders to the dead?*

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Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

*¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?*

*¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?*

*¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.*

*¹⁴ Why, Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?*

*¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.*

*¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.*

*¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood;
they have completely engulfed me.*

*¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend.*

I. DARKNESS CAN LAST A LONG TIME – NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO

Two Types of Darkness

- Outer

- Inner

Jesus' Experience with both

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What Makes Facing Darkness Hard

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." John 1:10-11

*"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles."* Psalm 34:17

II. DARK TIMES IS THE BEST TIME TO LEARN OF GOD'S GRACE

*Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?
Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? (vs. 10-12)*

"from my youth" (vs. 15)

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It is by grace that we have been saved.... Ephesians 2:8

“When you were dead in your sins and still living according to your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code that stood against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:13-14

“It is for freedom Christ has set us free.” Romans 5:1

III. Dark times also shape us into people of greatness.

Two Ways to Grow

- In Faith

Paths to Success

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- In Character

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:2-4

*“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”
Romans 5:3-4*

The Rest of the Story

Application