

TEHILLIM TALKS

Psalm 88

A Song.

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath Leannoth.

A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.

1-7

Adonai, God of my salvation, I cry/scream out day and night before **You**. ² Let my prayer come before **You**. Incline **Your** ear to my **cries**!

רִנָּה

(*rinah*)

“cry of / song of joy”

³ For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit. I am a man who has no strength, ⁵ like one quarantined among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom **You** remember no more, and they are cut off by **Your** hand. ⁶ **You** have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. ⁷ **Your** wrath lies heavy upon me, and **You** overwhelm me with all **Your** waves. *Selah*

8-10

You have caused my companions to shun me. **You** have made me a horror to them; shut in, I cannot escape. ⁹ My eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon **You**, O Adonai. I stretched out my hands to **You**. ¹⁰ Will **You** work wonders for the dead? Do the departed arise to praise **You**? *Selah*

11-18

Is **Your** steadfast love declared in the grave, or **Your** faithfulness in Abaddon? ¹² Are **Your** wonders known in the darkness, or **Your** righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³ But I, Adonai, cry to **You**, and in the morning my prayer comes before **You**. ¹⁴ Adonai, why do **You** cast my soul away? Why do **You** hide Your face from me? ¹⁵ Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer **Your** terrors. I am helpless. ¹⁶ **Your** wrath has swept over me. **Your** dreadful assaults destroy me. ¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long. They close in on me completely. ¹⁸ **You** have caused lover and friend to shun me. Darkness has become my companion.

Observations:

- Satan receives *no* attention.
- The author does not forsake God.
- God receives *all* the credit.
- “Adonai” is God of my “Salvation”.

REFERENCES:

Superscription

1Chronicles 2:6 The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara, five in all.

1Kings 4:31 For [Solomon] was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was *known* in all the surrounding nations.

1Chronicles 6:33 These are the men who served and their sons. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman the singer the son of Joel, son of Samuel,

Verse 5

2Kings 15:5 And Adonai touched the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and he lived in a separate house (בית החפשית, *beit ha'chafshit*)... [+ 2Chron. 26:21]

Verse 11

Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.