



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS
WHEN THERE IS NO HAPPY ENDING
PSALM 88

Ben Blakey - Compass Bible Church - July 16 & 17, 2022

1. Sit _____
(vv. 1-18)

Psalm 88 (ESV)
1 O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
2 Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!
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 set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from 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 You have caused my companions to shun
me;

2. Never _____
(vv. 6-7, 11-12)

you have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
9 my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call upon you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
10 Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you? Selah
11 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, O LORD, cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
14 O LORD, 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.

3. Never _____
(vv. 10-12)

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 together.
18 You have caused my beloved and my
friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read Psalm 13.** Why do think we often want to rush toward the happy/positive ending without really wrestling with the intense suffering described in this Psalm?
- 2. Read James 1:2-4.** How have you seen God use suffering to refine you? How can that help build your trust for future trials, even when you can't tell what their purpose is?
- 3.** As you consider the intense suffering described in Psalm 88, how can this study help you as you seek to come alongside those who may feel that they are in a similar place to this Psalmist?
- 4. Read Job 3:9-10.** Job refuses to use his immense suffering as an excuse to curse God. What are some things **you** need to be careful to not excuse even though you are suffering?
- 5. Read Lamentations 3:21-24,** especially noting v. 21. What are some of the things that you need to “call to mind” in the midst of suffering that will encourage you to pray? How can you appeal to God in those prayers?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.

Guinness, Os. *God in the Dark*. Crossway, 1996.
 Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cures*. Eerdmans, 1965.
 White, James R. *Grieving: Your Path Back to Peace*.
 Bethany House, 1997.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for God's help in thinking biblically regarding suffering.
 Pray for those you know that are experiencing acute suffering.
 Pray that God would be praised in how our congregation handles suffering.
 Pray for all the hardworking servants who will be preparing for Camp Compass this week.
 Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
7/18	1 Kings 4, Psalm 72	1 Corinthians 1
7/19	Song of Solomon 1-5:1	1 Corinthians 2
7/20	Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14	1 Corinthians 3
7/21	Proverbs 1-2	1 Corinthians 4
7/22	Proverbs 3-4	1 Corinthians 5
7/23	Proverbs 5-7	1 Corinthians 6