

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. **Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]**

For Ethan, the world had gone “sidewise”. Little made sense. Ethan reflects his concern about his culture in this portion of his psalm. If this psalm was written during the last years of David’s life, then this section of the psalm reflects this reality.

David tried to eliminate social unrest by appointing Solomon as co-regent. But David had appointed relatives and family members to positions in the bureaucracy due to their loyalty to him. This was common in most ancient cultures. It is still common today in parts of the world. The problem with this approach is when the ruler begins to weaken and there is jockeying for position and control between these various political allies.

Ethan comes from the Hebrew name Eitan – meaning: strong, stable, enduring or good courage. Indicating optimism. Ethan can also mean “steadfast”



Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. **Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]**

Joab, David’s cousin is commander of the Army. Adonijah, an elder son, had been in positions of authority in the Kingdom. Abiathar, one of the High Priests, had been an ally since David’s exile years. These 3 plus many others in the bureaucracy see little future for themselves in Solomon’s administration.

During the last 2 years of David and Solomon’s co-regency they undoubtedly worked behind the scenes to undermine Solomon. David’s failing health and weakened mental acuity combined with Solomon’s youth and inexperience, made it difficult for establish social order.

This is the situation that seems to be reflected in Ethan’s psalm. He laments David’s failing health and the social unrest.

Ethan comes from the Hebrew name Eitan – meaning: strong, stable, enduring or good courage. Indicating optimism. Ethan can also mean “steadfast”


Message: “Faithfulness Gives
Blessing”. **Psalm 89:33-37 [24-37]**

33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.


34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David:

36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;



Ethan comes from the Hebrew name Eitan – meaning: strong, stable, enduring or good courage. Indicating optimism. Ethan can also mean “steadfast”





“Jeremiah Laments The Destruction of Jerusalem” – Rembrandt.

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. **Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]**

In 586 BC Jeremiah faced a world gone completely sideways. The Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem. In his lament he express his trust in God’s faithfulness.

It is hard for Jeremiah to be confident in God’s faithfulness when the world had fallen apart. The name Ethan means “optimistic one”. But what is optimism built upon?

The Hebrew word that the name Ethan comes from means “steadfast” or “of good courage”.

Optimism is not wishful thinking. A real optimist faces the reality of circumstances and yet believes good can and will come. **Lamentations 3:21-26**



“Jeremiah Laments The Destruction of Jerusalem” – Rembrandt.

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Lamentations 3:21-26

21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

22 *Through* the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

23 *They are* new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.

24 “The LORD *is* my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”

25 The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him.

26 *It is* good that *one* should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.



Thomas O.
Chisholm &
William M.
Runyan



Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

In 1923 at the age of 57 Thomas O. Chisholm wrote one of America and England’s best loved hymns. Thomas had been a school teacher, a newspaper editor, a handyman, business manager and editor for a Christian magazine. Early in the 1900s he became a Methodist minister. He left ministry due to health reasons and began selling insurance in Vineland NJ. This required a great deal of travel. During his travels, Scripture was a comfort to him. He would write hymn lyrics reflecting his insights from scripture. During his life he wrote 1200 hymns. He had a close friendship with another Methodist minister, William M. Runyan.

William worked for Moody Bible Institute and a small hymn publisher. As he leafed through the poems Thomas had sent him he was captivated by “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”. He wrote the music and it was published.



Thomas O.
Chisholm &
William M.
Runyan



Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Based on Lamentations 3:23.

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*



Thomas O.
Chisholm &
William M.
Runyan



Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Based on Lamentations 3:23.

Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.



Thomas O.
Chisholm &
William M.
Runyan



Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”. Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

William would reflect on his inspiration to write the music:

"This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way."

He died in 1957.

Thomas reflecting on his writing of the lyrics in 1941 said:

"My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

He died in 1960 at the age of 94. Though the hymn was popular at Moody and became their theme song, it did not become well known until the Billy Graham Crusades of the late 40's through 50's introduced it to America and Britain.



John Philip Sousa [1854-1932. One of the greatest band composers of 19th & 20th century

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”.

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

John Philip Sousa joined the Marines as a Music apprentice in 1868. He became a full musician when he turned 18 and re-enlisted as a Marine. He left the Marines in 1875 to pursue music education. For the rest of his life he would compose and conduct music. He returned to the Marine band as its director in 1880. He served under several Presidents as the President’s Marine Band conductor. In 1888 after attending the Marine coral performing at Quantico he was so moved by their performance of the Marine hymn that he wrote a “march” entitled in honor of the Marine motto “Semper Fidelis”.

He considered it his best composition and it became the official march of the Marines. He left the Marine band to pursue a lucrative music career.



John Philip Sousa [1854-1932. One of the greatest band composers of 19th & 20th century

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”.

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

He returned to serve in the Navy during WW2 and was so proud of his service that he continued to wear his Navy uniform for performances even after he retired.

The words “semper fidelis” means “always faithful”.

That is true of God, He is always faithful and His faithfulness inspires in us faithfulness.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.



Thomas O. Chisholm [1866-1960]

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”.

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

I think Ethan would have tracked with Thomas. Thomas’s life had been a relatively ordinary one with little notoriety. Yet he had experienced one of the most transformative and confusing eras of American history. Thomas never finished school but became a teacher at 16. He became editor of his hometown newspaper when he was in his early 20s. At age 27 he attended a Methodist holiness revival service and gave his heart to Christ. Shortly there after he became managing editor of a small holiness periodical. In the early 1900s he became a licensed Methodist minister. His health made it difficult to continue his duties as a minister so he began to sell insurance.



Thomas O. Chisholm [1866-1960]

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”.

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Ethan is mentioned as one of the wisest men in Israel but we have one this one Psalm to reflect his thoughts and talents. In this Psalm Ethan is concerned about David and what David represents.

Thomas had lived through some of the most amazing changes in American culture. He experienced turmoil of the post Civil War era. The rise of modern industrialism, the development of the telephone, the electric light, the automobile, the airplane and space exploration.

He saw WW1, the 1920s, the great Depression, WW2, the beginning of the cold war. Yet through every experience he maintained his confidence in God’s faithfulness. **Hebrews 13:8-9**



Thomas O. Chisholm [1866-1960]

Message: “Faithfulness Gives Blessing”.

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Ethan is mentioned as one of the wisest men in Israel but we have one this one Psalm to reflect his thoughts and talents. In this Psalm Ethan is concerned about David and what David represents.

Thomas had lived through some of the most amazing changes in American culture. He experienced turmoil of the post Civil War era. The rise of modern industrialism, the development of the telephone, the electric light, the automobile, the airplane and space exploration.

He saw WW1, the 1920s, the great Depression, WW2, the beginning of the cold war. Yet through every experience he maintained his confidence in God’s faithfulness. **Hebrews 13:8-9**



Thomas O. Chisholm [1866-1960]

Message: "Faithfulness Gives Blessing".

Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]

Hebrews 13:8-9

8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Message: "Faithfulness Gives Blessing". Psalm 89:34-37 [24-37]



DO YOUR BEST
AND LET GOD
DO THE REST.

~BEN CARSON

In Psalm 89:24, Ethan says of king David, that God's faithfulness will be with him. It is a statement of confidence not in David but in God's character. God would not abandon His promise to David, nor Israel. Ethan could not see the end of God's purpose but he was sure of God's steadfastness in all circumstances.

Garrison COG - Aug. 23, 2020