

Psalm 88

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah. For the director of music. According to *mahalath leannoth*. A *maskil* of Heman the Ezrahite.

- 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.^[d]
- 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?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
- ¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction^[e]?
- 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.