Psalms 86-89 (Week 29)

Mike Minear · Psalm 87 · Series: **A Year in the Psalms**

1 Bow Down Your Ear, O Lord

Matthew 6:12

- Bow down your ear, O Lord, hear me, for I am poor and needy.
- For you, Lord, are good and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you.
- Teach me your way, O Lord. I will walk in your truth. Unite my heart to fear your name.
- A devoted servant of the Lord is always ready to acknowledge his human weakness.
- A request for pardon does not always imply some specific sin has been committed. Jesus taught his disciples to ask for pardon on a general principle.
- David contrasted both the personality and works of the true and the false gods.

2 Psalm 87: Glorious Things Are Spoken of Zion

Psalm 87

- The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.
- The psalmist sings a song in praise of Zion as a center of worship for the world.
- The pronounced universalism points to the author's contact with the major prophets.
- The mention of Egypt and Babylon together as world power suggests the period of the exile as the occasion of composition of the poem.

3 A Lament Engulfed in Gloom and Despair

- O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before you.
- For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave.
- But to you I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- This lament and prayer of an individual completely engulfed in gloom and despair ends without an answer or even a glimmer of hope.
- The psalmist cannot be located in history, but this does not affect the interpretation, for his suffering has a timeless quality.

4 I Have Sworn to My Servant David

- I have made a covenant with my chosen. I have sworn to my servant David, your seed I will establish forever and build up your throne to all generations.
- Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Mercy and truth go before your face.
- My covenant I will not break nor alter the word that has gone out of my lips.
- Lord, where are your former loving kindness, which you swore to David in your truth?

- Blessed be the Lord for evermore. Amen and amen.
- The hymn and the oracle both present the basis for the lament.

MY NOTES