

PSALM 86

A Psalm of Supplication and Trust.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (10-18-95).
- B. A Psalm of David. "A Psalm of Supplication and Trust."
- C. This is the only psalm of David in the Third Book of the Psalms. The language and style is typical of David's psalms, so "scholars" claim that it was written by someone else who copied the style of David.
- D. Coffman divides the psalm into three divisions with the following headings:
 - I. God's Goodness is an Encouragement to Seek Him (86:1-5).
 - II. God's Omnipotent is an Encouragement to Seek Him (86:6-10).
 - III. God's Prior Mercies is an Encouragement to Seek Him (86:11-17).

THE TEXT.

- 86:1** Incline Your ear, O LORD, *and* answer me;
For I am afflicted and needy.
- 2** Preserve my soul, for I am a godly man;
O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You.
- 3** Be gracious to me, O Lord,
For to You I cry all day long.
- 4** Make glad the soul of Your servant,
For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5** For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.
- 6** Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
And give heed to the voice of my supplications!
- 7** In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You,
For You will answer me.
- 8** There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord,
Nor are there any works like Yours.
- 9** All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord,
And they shall glorify Your name.
- 10** For You are great and do wondrous deeds;
You alone are God.
- 11** Teach me Your way, O LORD;
I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your name.
- 12** I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
And will glorify Your name forever.
- 13** For Your lovingkindness toward me is great,
And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14** O God, arrogant men have risen up against me,
And a band of violent men have sought my life,
And they have not set You before them.
- 15** But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.
- 16** Turn to me, and be gracious to me;
Oh grant Your strength to Your servant,
And save the son of Your handmaid.
- 17** Show me a sign for good,
That those who hate me may see *it* and be ashamed,
Because You, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

COMMENTS.

- A. God's Goodness is an Encouragement to Seek Him.
In each of these divisions David gives reasons why he has confidence in God to grant his petitions.

[v1] "...for I am poor and needy." The first reason for the petition is that he needs what he is asking for.

[v2] Two reasons are given in verse 2: "...for I am holy; you are my God." This is the term that generally describes one who is serving God and is excepted by God as His child and servant.

[v3,4] "...I cry to You all the day long...for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul." He called on the Lord for all of his needs, and believes that God hears his prayer.

[v5] "For You, Lord, are GOOD, and READY TO FORGIVE, and ABUNDANT IN MERCY to all those who call upon You." Here is the basis of David's faith in God's answering his prayer.

B. God's Omnipotence is an Encouragement to Seek Him.

Omnipotence refers to God's great power. In this section the emphasis is on the great works that God does which show his power.

[v8] "...there is none like You...nor are there any works like your works." The world is full of gods, but only the God of the Bible has the power and does the works that are claimed for them.

[v9] "All nations whom You have made shall come..." First, God has made all peoples, and secondly, God has given authority to civil governments, whether they recognize His authority or not. See Rom. 13:1.

[v10] "You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God." Each of these three characteristics show how God has unlimited power.

C. God's Prior Mercies is an Encouragement to Seek Him.

[v11] "Teach me Your way...I will walk in Your truth..." We have to learn God's way in order to be in truth. Man cannot know the way to walk on his own (Jer. 10:23).

[v13] "...great is your MERCY toward me!" He mentions God's mercy four times in this psalm: vv. 5, 13, 15, 16. Mercy is the forgoing of punishment that is deserved.

[v14] "...the proud have risen against me...a mob of violent men...have not set You before them." David recognizes that one reason men are mean and violent is because they have not set God before them and submitted to Him.

[v15] "...You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth." While men continue to describe the God of the OT as cruel and legalistic, the inspired writers continue to picture Him as loving and forgiving (see 86:5).

[v15] "...have mercy on me...save the son of Your handmaid." David asks for mercy before he asks for salvation. We can never receive God's blessings until we have first received mercy by not being punished as we deserve.

[v17] "Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed..." The worldly often see how happy people are when they really give their lives to God's service and do not understand it. I read recently that people should not talk much about how happy and contented they are, because most people will be suspicious about them.