

Aramaic Bible Companion

PREFACE

This third book of Psalms (Psalms 73-89) presents to us a considerable development of Israel's religious history. We arrive by the end of the book at the time of Ezra when the prophets Haggai and Zephaniah issue their message.

I trust you will enjoy this book not alone because it is more succinct but because this is not a selection of the greatest antiquity. Most psalms are entitled "For the collector of Music" and four are Ezrahite. You and I are being treated in this book to what God was doing 500 years after David's time.

The sovereign goodness of God who brought Israel out of Egypt was shown once more in delivering His people from the Babylonian Captivity and giving them the most lustrous leaders and scholars of any time in their history since the days of Hezekiah and Josiah.

The Prayer of David (Psalm 86) is a real treat. Here is a man of God who has learned to say "O". He is enthralled with the LORD. You will count 12 petitions beginning with the words "O LORD" and every believer will find benefit studying those heart cries.

This psalm carries from 1000 BC the message that the LORD delivers the soul from Sheol. The resurrection of the dead is a doctrine of the bible and it was taught by God's spirit to David and the psalm plays its glorious part in showing that under Ezra there were those who were so fully persuaded on

that count that this psalm was chosen to lustre the songs of the era and show that Israel's eternal hope was very truly alive.

I would advise that I have translated from Hebrew text interspersed with comments. The translation is in plain "Times New Roman" and the commentary is in Italic.

To the reader I would echo the secret of the devotion of Ezra and David- "Be merciful to me O LORD for I cry to You daily or "all the day".

Sincerely in Christ

Bob Coffey L'shuvkha Marya
To the glory of the Lord
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