

Psalme 88

Gods mercie and truth, with his great promifes to Dauid, 6. his powre in the whole world, and iuft iudgements, are the true ioy of his feruantes. 20. Chrifts kingdom shal remaine for euer: 31. yea manie offending yet al shal not perish, 39. but after great affliction, 47. God wil respect mans infirmitie, 50. his owne promife, and the enimies reproching his feruantes and himfelfe: 53. who is bleffed for euer.

The Church of
Chrift neuer
faileth.
The 6. key.

Of vnderftanding ^{a)}to Ethan the Ezrahite.

The mercies of our Lord I wil fing for euer.
In generation ^{b)}and generation I wil shewe forth
thy truth, in my mouth.

³ Because thou faidft: Mercie shal be built vp for
euer ^{c)}in the heauens: thy truth shal be prepared in
them.

⁴ I haue ordained a teftament with mine elect, I
haue fworne to Dauid my feruant: ^{5 d)}for euer wil I pre-
pare thy feede. And I wil build thy feat vnto generation
and generation.

⁶ The heauens shal confesse thy meruelous workes
ô Lord: yea and thy truth in the church of faintes.

^a Otherwife called Idithun *1. Paral. 25.* or rather Ethan, who was very wife, mentioned with others, to whom Salomon is preferred for wifdom. *3. Reg. 4. v. 31.* and fignifieth ftrong, applied here to thofe that are ftrong in affured hope of Chrifts promifes, notwithstanding it femeth fometimes to the weake, that his promifes are not performed.

^b In al generations.

^c The heauens fhall rather fal, then Gods truth faile. Myftically, in the Apoftles, and by their preaching, the Church of Chrift is built for euer.

^d Dauids feede conferued til Chrift was borne of his virgin mother: and in his fpiritual feede, his kingdom the Church is for euer conferued. Otherwife not verified of Dauids temporal kingdom, which decayed in the captiuitie of Babylon, and is now wholly deftroyed.

7 For who in the cloudes shal be equal to our Lord:
shal be like to God among ^a)the fonnes of God?

8 God, who is glorified in the counfel of faintes:
great and terrible ouer al that are round about him.

9 Ô Lord God of hoaftes who is like to thee? thou
art mightie ô Lord, and thy truth round about thee.

10 Thou ruleft ouer the powre of the fea: and the
mouing of the waues therof thou doeft mitigate.

11 Thou ^b)humbledft the proud one, as one wounded:
in the arme of thy ftrength thou haft difperfed thine en-
imies.

12 The heauens are thine, and the earth is thine,
the round earth, and the fulnes therof thou haft founded:
13 the north, and the fea thou haft created.

Thabor ^c)and Hermon shal reioice in thy name:
14 thy arme is with might.

Let ^d)thy hand be confirmed, and thy ^e)righthand
exalted: 15 iuftice and iudgement is the preparation of
thy feat.

Mercie and truth shal goe before thy face: 16 ^f)bleffed
is the people that knoweth iubilation.

Lord they shal walke in the light of thy counti-
nance, 17 and in thy name they shal reioyce al the day:
and in thy iuftice they shal be exalted.

18 Because thou art the glorie of their ftreingth:
and in thy good pleafure shal our ^g)horne be exalted.

19 Because our protection is of our Lord: and of the
holie one of Ifrael our king.

^a The Angels.

^b The prophet aludeth to the plagues and miracles in Ægypt, and
in other enimies.

^c Conuerfion of Gentiles.

^d VWhether God punifh, as with the left hand,

^e or beftow benefites, as with the right hand, al is to his glorie, and
according to mercie, and truth.

^f They are fpiritually happie, that do thus confider of Gods meru-
elous procedings, praife the fame, and reioyce therein.

^g Powre, and kingdom.

20 Then didst thou speake in vision to thy faintes,
and saidst ^aI haue put helpe on the mightie one: and
haue exalted an elect one of my people.

21 I haue found Dauid my seruant: with myne holie
oyle haue I anointed him.

22 For mine hand shal helpe him: and myne arme
shal strengthen him.

23 The enimie shal nothing preuale in him: and the
fonne of iniquitie shal not adde to hurt him.

24 And I wil cut downe his enimies before his face:
and them that hate him I wil put to flight.

25 And my truth, and my mercie with him: and in
my name shal his horne be exalted.

26 And I wil put his hand in the fea: and his right-
hand in the riuers.

27 He shal inuocate me: Thou art my Father: my
God, and the protector of my saluation.

28 And I wil put him the firstbegotten, high aboue
the kings of the earth.

29 I wil kepe my mercie vnto him for euer: and my
testament faithful to him.

30 I wil put his feed for euer and euer: and his
throne as the daies of heauen.

31 But if his children shal forfake my lawe: and wil
not walke in my Iudgementes:

32 If they shal profane my iustices: and not kepe
my commandmentes:

33 I wil visite their iniquities with a rod: and their
finnes with ftripes:

34 But ^dmy mercie I wil not take away from him:
neither wil I hurt in my truth:

35 Neither wil I profane my testament: and the
words that procede from my mouth I wil not make frustrate.

I vvil not lie.

36 Once I haue fworne in my holie, if I lie to Dauid:

37 his feede shal continewe for euer.

^a Thus God promised to establiſh the kingdom of the Iewes in Dauid
and his familie. *1. Reg. 16. 2. Reg. 5.* and other places. Which
was performed as in a figure but more fully in Chriſt. *Act. 13.
v. 22.*

38 And ^ahis throne as the Sunne in my fight, and
^bas the Moone perfect for euer: and a faithful witneffe
in heauen.

39 ^aBut ^cthou haft repelled and difpifed: thou ^dhaft
differred thy Chrifft.

40 Thou haft ouerthrowne the teftament of thy feru-
ant: thou haft profaned his fanctuarie on the earth.

41 Thou haft deftroyed al the hedges therof: thou
haft made the firmament therof feare.

42 Al that paffe by the way haue fpoiled him: he is
become a reproch to his neighbours.

43 Thou haft exalted the righthand of them that
oppreffe him: thou haft made al his enimies ioyful.

44 Thou haft turned away the helpe of his fword:
and haft not holpen him in battel.

45 Thou haft deftroied him from ^eemundation: and
his feat thou haft broken downe to the ground.

46 Thou haft leffened the daies of his time: thou
haft ouerwhelmed him with confufion.

47 ^fHow long ô Lord doeft thou turne away for
euer: shal thy wrath burne as a fire?

^a Chriftian iuft foules as the funne,

^b and as the perfect, or full moone. See *the firft Tome. page 716.*
S. Auguftin alfo expoundeth this verfe in the Anagogical fenfe, of
the iuft after the Refurrection in glorie, where the foule fhall be
like the funne, and the bodie, which now is mutable, fhall be like
the moone, not as now alwayes changing, but as the ful moone,
alwayes perfect.

^c God hauing promifed al the aforefaide the prophet in the perfon
of the weake, lamenteth that the contrarie fhall happen as wel in
the temporal kingdom oppreffed by the Affirians, Babylonians,
Perfians, Grecians, and Romanes: as in the Church impugned by
innumerable fortes of Heretikes and other Infidels.

^d Amongft manie penfue thinges, this one word doth comferte vs,
thy promife remaineth, thou haft not denied to fend Chrifft, but
differred him.

^e From the vfe of Sacrifice and Sacraments, wherby finners were
wount to be cleaned.

^f The Pfalmift prayeth and prophecieth that God wil respect the
weaknes of man, maintaine his Church in manie natiōs, and faue
manie foules.

48 Remember what my substance is: for hast thou made al the children of men in vaine?

49 Who is the man that shal liue, and shal not see death: shal deliuer his foule from the hand of hel?

50 Where are thine old mercies ô Lord, as thou fwareft to Dauid in thy truth?

51 Be mindeful ô Lord of the aeprouch of thy feruantes (which I haue held in my bosome) of manie nations.

52 Which thine enimies haue reproched ô Lord, which they haue reproched ^{a)}the commutation of thy Christ.

53 Bleffed be our Lord for euer: ^{b)}Be it, be it.

ANNOTATIONS

34 My mercie I vvil not take avvay from him.) Although, Christians signified by the childrẽ or fuceffors of Dauid, finne moft grievoufly, yea fuppose they wil finne with desperacion (faith S. Auguftin) and obtinatly perfift in finne, that they offend the eyes of their Father, & deferue to be difenherited: &c. Yet for these Christ shal not remaine without inheritance, the corne shal not also perifh for the chafe, fome fishes shal be geathered out of the nette into veffels, notwithstanding the euil fishes are caft away. And a litle after, the fame Doctor discourfing of eternal glorie both in bodie and foule, of those that dye in Gods fauour, fayth: These things are promifed concerning Christ, very certaine, very firme, very plaine, and vndoubted. For albeit some thinges are couered in myfteries, yet some thinges are fo manifest, that by them the obfcure thinges may moft easily be cleared.

39 But thou hast repelled &c.) Againe S. Auguftin, addeth *vpon the next verses folowing*: God performed not these promifes in Dauid, that when thou feest they were not fulfilled in Dauid, which necessarily muft be fulfilled, thou maist feke an other, in whom it may be fhewed that they were fulfilled. God promifed some thing (a kingdom) for euer of Dauids feede: and Salomon was borne: and became of fo great wifdom, and fo great prudence, that Gods promife concerning Dauids feede, seemed to be fulfilled in him. But Salomon fell, and gaue place of expecting Christ; that becaufe God neither can be deceiued, nor deceiue, he put not his promife in him, whom he knew would fall, but thou shouldest relie vpon God, and exact his promife. A litle after: Thou seekeft

Though Christians do finne, yet Christ lofeth not his Church.

Hard places explicated by the cleare.

Gods promifes to Dauid were not fulfilled in Salomon, but in Christ.

Defectes in the Iewes fupplied in the Gentiles.

^a As though Christ were changed and turned from vs.

^b So we wifh and pray that al may bleffe and praife thee. Amen.

the kingdom of the Iewes, it is not: thou seekeft the altar of the Iewes, it is not: thou seekeft the facrifice of the Iewes, it is not: thou seekeft the priefthood of the Ievves, it is not. VVherupon he concludeth: Al thefe defectes came to the Ievves: yet vvas not Chrift taken from them, but differred. Some Ievves beleued in him, and manie Gentiles. As the Pfalmift prophecieth from the *47. verfe* to the end of this Pfalme.