

Seeing God Through the Psalms
The Dark Night of the Soul - Psalm 88 (p. 494)

1. The first cry (v. 1-9a)

2. The second cry (v. 9b-12)

3. The third cry (v. 13-18)

How are we to understand this Psalm in light of others that end with hope in God?

1. Our reaction to the apparent injustice of this psalm often reveals a sense of _____, that God owes us a happy or easy life.
2. Rather than a psalm of unremitting darkness, we ought to read the Psalm as an amazing _____ as the Psalmist keeps praying in the midst of his despair.
3. No believer has ever _____ suffered what this psalmist *feels* he has suffered BECAUSE _____ actually did suffer this genuine abandonment by God on our behalf.
4. Because he really did suffer the ultimate darkness, Jesus will not treat us _____ (Matt. 12:15-21).
5. Psalm 88's inclusion in the Bible demonstrates the _____ of some people in which no hope and no relief is apparent for long stretches of their life. Lament and grief are natural in difficult trials and should not be discouraged or confused with self-centered self-pity.