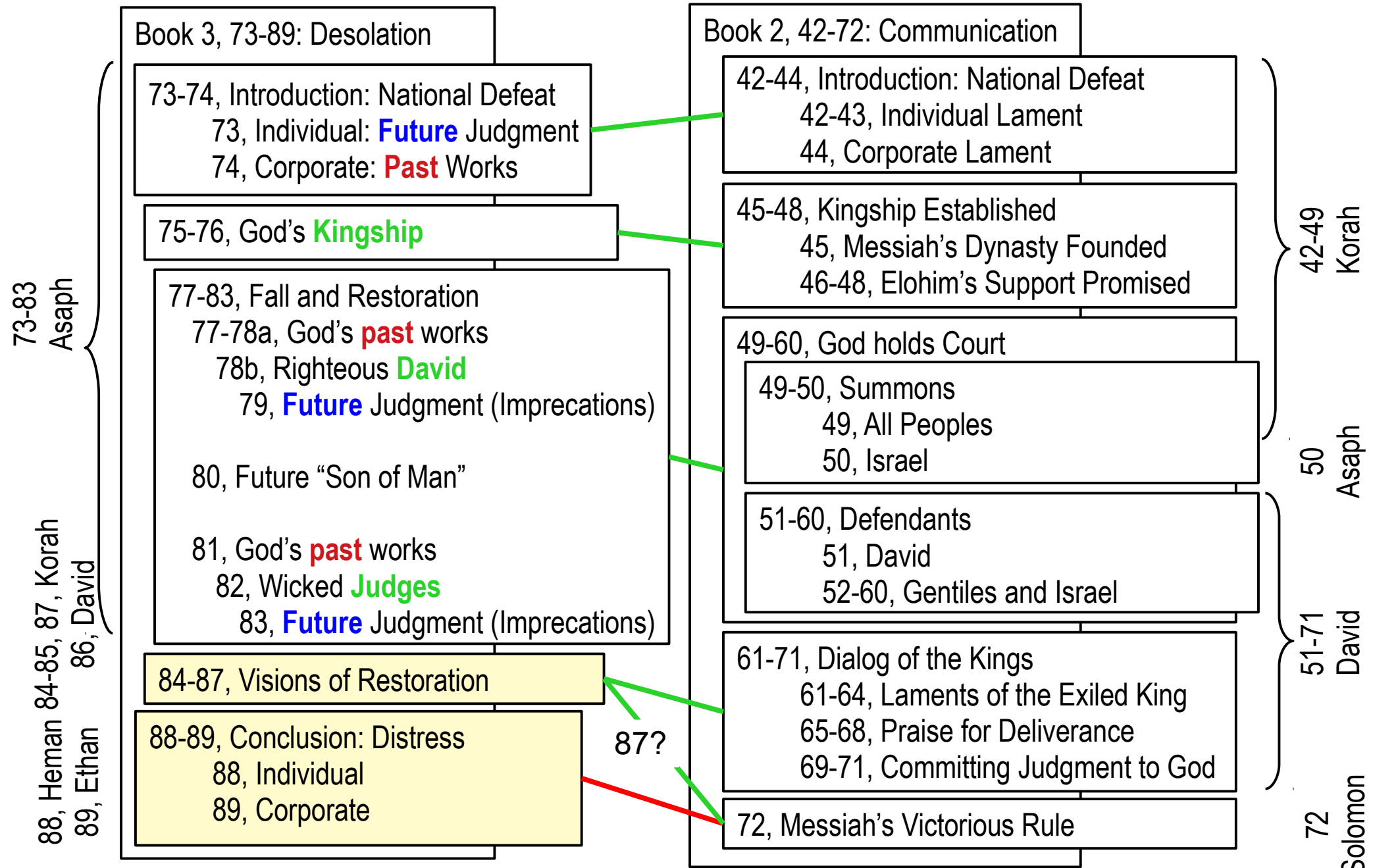


Treasure Hunt

- How is Psalm 87 like Psalm 72?
- How is Zion different from “the dwellings of Jacob” (Ps 87:2)?
- How does this difference allow the nations of vv. 4-5 to claim citizenship?
- What is a likely context of the Psalm, and why?
- How many people named Heman and Ethan were there, and which ones probably wrote Psalms 88-89?
- Explain the parts of the address in 88:1, “O LORD God of my salvation.”
- What do Heman’s questions have in common with Abraham’s?
- What truth ultimately answers Heman’s questions?
- How do Heman’s questions contrast with what unbelievers say to God in tragedy?

Book 3: Desolation



God and the Nations:

Psa 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for **thou shalt inherit all nations.**

Ps 86:9 **All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.**

Isa 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow unto it.**

Structure of Psalm 87

Psalm 87, Citizens of Zion

1-3, Zion's significance to God
Selah

4-6, Zion's significance to the Nations
Selah

7, Bringing the Ark to Zion

7 As well the **singers** as the ~~players on instruments~~ **dancers** shall be there:

1Sa 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, **singing and dancing**, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

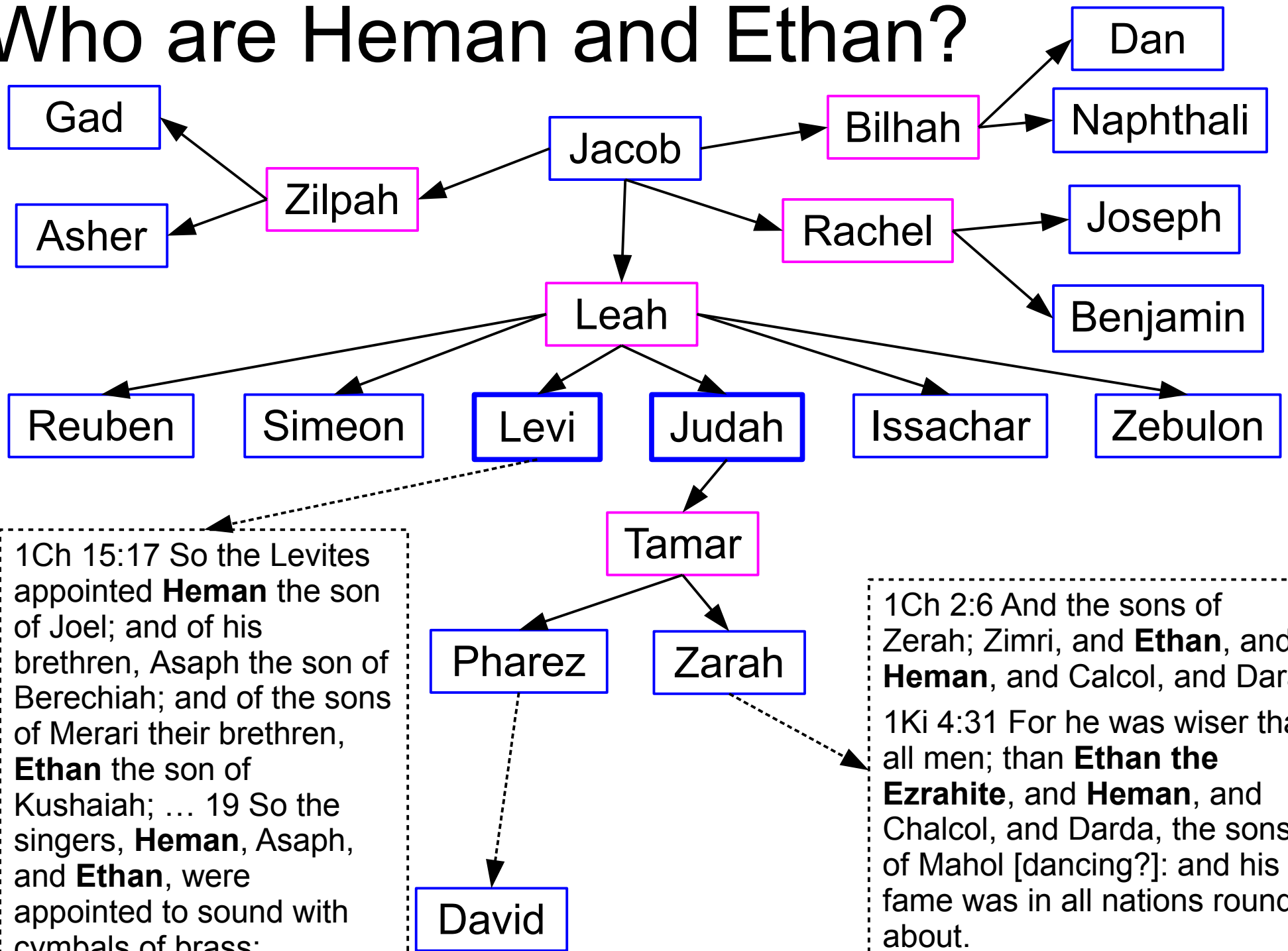
1Ch 15:27 And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the **singers**, and Chenaniah **the master of the song with the singers**: David also had upon him an ephod of linen. 28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps. 29 And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David **dancing** and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

References on Psalm 87

7b all my **springs** are in thee.

Psa 46:4 There is a river, the **streams** whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Who are Heman and Ethan?



1Ch 15:17 So the Levites appointed **Heman** the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, **Ethan** the son of Kushaiah; ... 19 So the singers, **Heman**, Asaph, and **Ethan**, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass;

1Ch 2:6 And the sons of Zerah; Zimri, and **Ethan**, and **Heman**, and Calcol, and Dara:
 1Ki 4:31 For he was wiser than all men; than **Ethan the Ezrahite**, and **Heman**, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol [dancing?]; and his fame was in all nations round about.

Structure of Psalm 88

Complaint	1 LORD ... I have cried day and night before thee	13 unto thee have I cried , O LORD ... in the morning
	3 For my soul is full of troubles : and my life draweth nigh unto the grave . 4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit : I am as a man that hath no strength: 5 Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave , whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. 6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. 7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves . Selah. 8 Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me ; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.	15 I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted. 16 Thy fierce wrath goeth over me ; thy terrors have cut me off. 17 They came round about me daily like water ; they compassed me about together. 18 Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.
Questions	9 LORD , I have called daily upon thee	
	10-12 Four Questions	

References for Psalm 88

LORD God of my salvation [ישועה Strong 3444]

“God of my salvation” [ישע Strong 3468] (12x, 9 in Psalms and quotations)

LORD (covenant name)

“Salvation” [ישועה Strong 3444]

- Nowhere else in “God of my salvation”
- Deut. 32:15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed **the Rock of his salvation.**

3 my life draweth nigh unto the grave ... 7 thy wrath lieth hard upon me

1Co 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10-12, Heman’s questions

Gen 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

More Refs for Ps 88

10 Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead?

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah.

Psa 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

11 Shall thy **lovingkindness חסד** be declared in the grave? or thy **faithfulness אמונה** in destruction?

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in **goodness חסד** and **truth אמת**,

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and **he will curse thee** to thy face. ... 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and **he will curse thee** to thy face.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? **curse God**, and die.

Isa 8:21 And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and **curse their king and their God**, and look upward.

Rev 16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and **blasphemed the name of God**, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And **blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. ... 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men **blasphemed God** because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.