



# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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July 2011

Dear Friends,

In reading the 89<sup>th</sup> Psalm we encounter in the words of Ethan the Ezrahite one the most difficult situations we must face as human beings. As humans we have certain expectations of God and in particular expectations of how God should fulfill His Word. These cause conflict all the time. Even now there are people who continue to set dates for the end of the world with great certainty believing that they are simply supplying information that God has provided through His Word and making it clear. The problem is that they're wrong. What they perceive to be the Word of God really isn't God's Word; it's their own idea confused with God's Word. What is amazing is that God anticipated this issue in Psalm 89.

The first 37 verses of the Psalm recount God's promises to Israel, particularly that God would always keep the offspring of David on the throne. Verses 38-45 speak of how God has forsaken His promise and allowed Israel to be decimated by its enemies. Verses 46-51 are a plea for God to renew His pledge, restore His love for Israel and avenge the wrongs they have suffered.

What Ethan didn't understand was that it wasn't God who had stopped loving Israel rather it was Israel who had stopped loving God. They were frustrated with God because He didn't meet the expectations of their interpretation of His Word. Actually God always had a descendant of David on the throne even when Israel had no earthly throne to possess. God had given His Son to reign over Israel through eternity and even though He was not yet physically present He still ruled over Israel.

Even today it is easy to come to the point of being frustrated with God because we can confuse our understanding of God with God as He actually is. God's thoughts are not ours neither are His ways ours. Only God knows God. Therefore we must put on the mind of Christ and wait with patience for God to reveal His purpose by the Spirit.

Throughout the world people are facing tumultuous times. Financial shakeups and calamities have caused problems for many. Yet God has not changed, He has not forgotten His promises, He still reigns. We can't always see things and understand them completely but we see Jesus and He gives us hope to endure. Ethan the Ezrahite couldn't understand but God recorded His words for all of us to read. God is indeed faithful. So the Psalm concludes: "Blessed be the Lord forevermore. Amen, and Amen."

Please remember us in these times as we remember you.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



## *Memorials received...*

*In memory of John Somero*  
from Ruth Somero

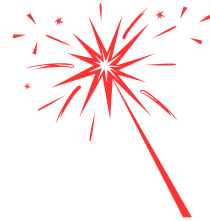
*In memory of Milly Otto*  
from Kirk & Carol Otto

*In memory of Mayme Niemitalo*  
from Sharon Lehr

*In memory of Louis Dahlmeier*  
from Donald & Pamela Bielinski  
Kirk & Carol Otto

*In memory of Norman Ruohonen*  
from Doug & Doris Moyle

*Thoughts & Prayers for Pauline Moilanen*  
from Doug & Doris Moyle



### CLASSES OFFERED NEXT SEMESTER

Classes for the Fall 2011 semester will begin soon. Jeremiah & Lamentations will be taught at 7PM in Negaunee and Hancock. Negaunee's class begins Thursday, August 25 and Hancock's class begins Monday, September 12. Please join us for a study of the prophecy given through the prophet Jeremiah and the events of his life recorded in the books bearing his name. Also, an analysis of the laments traditionally accredited to him.

Following are the daily classes which begin Wednesday, August 31: Lutheran Confessions, History of the Medieval Church, Pastoral Counselor, Genesis, Working as a Deaconess, Koine Greek Readings, Hebrew Readings, History of the Laestadian Movement and Evangelism. For a complete class schedule go to our website: [ilseminary.org](http://ilseminary.org) or contact the office at 906-482-3337 or email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com).

