

Psalm 074 - A Cry for Deliverance When the Temple is Defiled by the Enemy

Psalm 74

[Maschil of Asaph.]

The Temple Defiled

1 God, why have You rejected *us* forever? *Why* does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

1 O God, why have You rejected *us* forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

1 Why, God? Have you rejected us forever? Your anger is burning against the sheep of your pasture.

1 O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?

2 Remember Your congregation, *which* You purchased of old, *Which* You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance; *And* this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.

2 Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, Which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance; *And* this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.

2 Remember your community, whom you purchased long ago, the tribe whom you redeemed for your possession. Remember Mount Zion, where you live.

2 Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.

3 Step toward the irreparable ruins; The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.

3 Turn Your footsteps toward the perpetual ruins; The enemy has damaged everything within the sanctuary.

3 Hurry! Look at the permanent ruins— every calamity the enemy brought upon the Holy Place.

3 Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.

4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place; They have set up their own signs as signs.

- 4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place; They have set up their own standards for signs.
- 4 Those who are opposing you roar where we were meeting with you; they unfurl their war banners as signs.
- 4 Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs.
- 5 It seems like one bringing up *His* axe into a forest of trees.
- 5 It seems as if one had lifted up *His* axe in a forest of trees.
- 5 As one blazes a trail through a forest with an ax,
- 5 A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.

Asaph's Prophecy

This is prophetic of that terrible invasion by the forces of Antiochus Epiphanes. He was a Syrian, in the family of one of the four generals who divided up the empire of Alexander the Great after his death. In 167 BC, he plundered Jerusalem, profaned the temple and placed an image of Jupiter in the holy place. This was called the Abomination of Desolation (Dan 8-9).

In 70 AD the destruction by Titus the Roman leveled the temple to the ground (Luke 21). [Titus may have been a descendant of Antiochus IV.] During the Great Tribulation the final Abomination of Desolation will profane the holy place (Matt 24:15).

- 6 And now they break down all its carved work With axe and hammers.
- 6 And now all its carved work They smash with hatchet and hammers.
- 6 now they're tearing down all its carved work with hatchets and hammers.
- 6 But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers.
- 7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name.
- 7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name.
- 7 They burned your sanctuary to the ground, desecrating your dwelling place.
- 7 They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground.
- 8 They said in their heart, "Let's completely subdue them." They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 8 They said in their heart, "Let us completely subdue them." They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

8 They say to themselves, "We'll crush them completely;" They burned down all the meeting places of God in the land.

8 They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.

9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet, Nor is there *anyone* among us who knows how long.

9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet, Nor is there any among us who knows how long.

9 We see no signs for us; there is no longer a prophet, and no one among us knows the future.

9 We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

10 How long, God, will **the enemy** taunt *You*? Shall the enemy treat Your name disrespectfully forever?

10 How long, O God, will the adversary revile, *And* the enemy spurn Your name forever?

10 God, how long will the adversary scorn while the enemy despises your name endlessly?

10 O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name forever?

- "...the enemy" - an OT allusion to the Antichrist (see also Is 59:19; Lam 4:11-12; Amos 3:11)

— See [Allusions to the Antichrist](#)

- v8-10 contemplate a time when the Antichrist will make a desperate effort to cut off Israel from the earth and abolish everything that bears the name of God

11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? *Extend it* from Your chest *and* destroy *them*!

11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? From within Your bosom, destroy *them*!

11 Why do you not withdraw your hand— your right hand—from your bosom and destroy them?

11 Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom.

12 Yet God is my King from long ago, Who performs acts of salvation in the midst of the earth.

12 Yet God is my king from of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth.

12 But God is my king from ancient times, who brings acts of deliverance throughout the earth.

12 For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

- Turning point in the psalm: Asaph lifted his eyes in faith to the throne of God...

13 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

13 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

13 You split the sea by your own power. You shattered the heads of sea monsters in the water.

13 Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan. You set it as food for desert creatures.

14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

15 You broke open springs and torrents; You dried up ever-flowing streams.

15 You broke open springs and torrents; You dried up ever-flowing streams.

15 You opened both the spring and the river; you dried up flowing rivers.

15 Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers.

16 Yours is the day, Yours also is the night; You have prepared the light and the sun.

16 Yours is the day, Yours also is the night; You have prepared the light and the sun.

16 Yours is the day, and yours is the night; you established the moon and the sun.

16 The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth; You have created summer and winter.

17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

17 You set all the boundaries of the earth; you made summer and winter.

17 Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.

18 Remember this, LORD, that the enemy has taunted *You*, And a foolish people has treated Your name disrespectfully.

18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled, And a foolish people has spurned Your name.

18 Remember this: The enemy scorns the LORD and a foolish people despises your name.

18 Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.

19 Do not give the soul of Your turtledove to the wild animal; Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.

19 Do not deliver the soul of Your turtledove to the wild beast; Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.

19 Don't hand over the life of your dove to beasts; do not continuously forget your afflicted ones.

19 O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever.

20 Consider the covenant; For the dark places of the land are full of the places of violence.

20 Consider the covenant; For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

20 Pay attention to your covenant, for the dark regions of the earth are full of violence.

20 Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

21 May the oppressed person not return dishonored; May the afflicted and the needy praise Your name.

21 Let not the oppressed return dishonored; Let the afflicted and needy praise Your name.

21 Don't let the oppressed return in humiliation. The poor and needy will praise your name.

21 O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.

- He has delivered His people out of much worse situations than we have been in, and He will do even greater things for them in the future

22 Arise, God, *and* plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish person taunts You all day long.

22 Arise, O God, *and* plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You all day long.

22 Get up, God, and prosecute your case— remember that you're being scorned by fools all day long.

22 Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries, The uproar of those who rise against You, which **ascends** continually.

23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries, The uproar of those who rise against You which ascends continually.

23 Don't ignore the shout of those opposing you, The uproar of those who rebel against you continuously.

23 Forget not the voice of thine enemies: the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.

"...ascends" - this is a call to God to move in victory; it is a prayer that recognizes God's ability to do it