

Psalm 079 - A Prayer for Israel in the Tribulation

This psalm is a prayer for God's people, the nation Israel, in the Tribulation, which is the terrible day of trouble that is coming to them. This is another psalm of Asaph, a great musician, who was probably the writer and arranger of them. He was contemporary with David and probably served as his assistant.

Prophetic Applications

- The siege of Nebuchadnezzar and the subsequent Babylonian captivity
- The Maccabean period also brought such a calamity
- This prophecy's ultimate fulfillment will be during the future Tribulation period

The Perils of Jerusalem

The false prophets were saying that God would never allow their destruction and captivity. However, the city that the false prophets had said could never be taken was taken, and the inhabitants were carried away into captivity. The temple they said could never be destroyed was destroyed.

Psalm 79

[A Psalm of Asaph.]

A Prayer for Jerusalem

1 God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance; They have defiled Your holy temple; They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

1 O God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance; They have defiled Your holy temple; They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

1 God, nations have invaded your land to desecrate your holy Temple, to destroy Jerusalem,

1 O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

2 They have given the dead bodies of Your servants to the birds of the sky as food, The flesh of Your godly ones to the animals of the earth.

2 They have given the dead bodies of Your servants for food to the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your godly ones to the beasts of the earth.

2 to give the corpses of your servants as food for the birds of the skies and the flesh of your godly ones to the beasts of the earth;

2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.

Their Painful Dilemma

This horrible carnage was difficult for the people of Israel to understand: Why was God permitting this to happen to them? The false prophets had been continually telling them that it could not happen to God's people. The prophet Jeremiah had been faithfully giving God's warning of judgment to come; yet, he had been discredited and labeled as a traitor to his nation. The Israelites could not understand why God had not protected them. This is still a question in our day. A great many Jews have become atheists because of the terrible persecution and suffering of their people in Germany during Hitler's dictatorship.

Of course it is difficult for them to understand it. Maybe they have the same questions the psalmist has:

- Have they been faithful to God?
- Are they back in proper relationship with Him?
- Have they accepted their Messiah?
- Are they turning to Him?

The answer, of course, is no. Judgment has come upon the nations of the world, nations like our own. God has judged His people in the past and is judging them in our day. Great judgment has come upon the church and will increase in the future.

3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem; And there was no one to bury them.

3 They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem; And there was no one to bury them.

3 to make their blood flow like water around Jerusalem, with no one being buried.

3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.

4 We have become a disgrace before our neighbors, An *object of* derision and ridicule to those around us.

4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scoffing and derision to those around us.

4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a mockery and a derision to those around us.

4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

- Not just Babylon: Ammon, Moab, and Edom were delighted...

5 How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?

5 How long, O LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?

5 How long, LORD, will you be angry? Forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire?

5 How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

6 Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.

6 Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.

6 Pour out your wrath upon the nations that do not acknowledge you, and over the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

6 Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob And laid waste his settlement.

7 For they have devoured Jacob And laid waste his habitation.

7 For they consumed Jacob, making his dwelling place desolate.

7 For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

8 Do not hold us responsible for the guilty deeds of *our* forefathers; Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us, For we have become very low.

8 Do not remember the iniquities of *our* forefathers against us; Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us, For we are brought very low.

8 Don't charge us for previous iniquity, but let your compassion come quickly to us, for we have been brought very low.

8 O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

- But how will He be able to rub them out and forget them? Only through the death of Christ. When Christ is rejected, there is judgment.

— You have two ways to meet Him: in redemption or in judgment

9 Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And save us and forgive our sins for the sake of Your name.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake.

9 Help us, God, our deliverer, on account of your glorious name, deliver us and forgive our sins on account of your name.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed Be known among the nations in our sight.

10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight, Vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.

10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let vengeance for the blood of your servants be meted out before our eyes and among the nations.

10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

- The children of Israel had been making the boast that God was among them and would deliver them. God had not delivered them, and they were being subjected to ridicule

11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power, let those who are doomed to die remain.

11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are doomed to die.

11 Let the cries of the prisoners reach you. With the strength of your power, release those condemned to death.

11 Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;

12 And return to our neighbors seven times *as much* into their lap Their taunts with which they have taunted You, Lord.

12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom The reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.

12 Pay back our neighbors seven times the reproach with which they reproached you, LORD.

12 And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

13 So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture Will give thanks to You forever; To all generations we will tell of Your praise.

13 So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture Will give thanks to You forever; To all generations we will tell of Your praise.

13 Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you always, from generation to generation. We will declare your praise.

13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

- In that coming kingdom, their sorrows and their tears will be gone forever, and so there will be praise from generation to generation