

Psalm 79

1 A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps. 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. 3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them. 4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

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

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

10a Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God?

10b let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed. 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 render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord. 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.

Introduction:

1. A Psalm of Asaph – composed by Asaph the Levite, the Prophet, and the Seer.
2. This is a national lament. It expresses distress, prayer, and ends in hope.

Outline:

- A. Lament (vv.1-4)
- B. Question (v.5) (v.10a)
- C. Prayer for Vindication (vv.6-9) (vv.10b-13)

Observations:

1. Asaph is moved to trouble at the vision of the fall of Judah at the hands of Babylon. (Ps. 74).
2. (v.5) – How long LORD? (70 years).
3. God's calendar – moves forward using Zerubbabel and Joshua; same with the Lord Jesus and the eventually the Tribulation Temple, and then the Millennial Temple. Ultimately, the New Jerusalem (Eternity Future) – where God will have perfect fellowship with His people (Saved ones from Adam till the end of the Millennial Kingdom).
4. Only the things that are going to matter in the end are those things done for the cause of Christ (2 Peter 3:10).
5. (vv.6-9) – God will judge Babylon, also.
6. Another Pastoral scene ends this Psalm much like the previous Psalm (Ps. 78).

Lesson: Hope in Despair.