

Psalm 79  
"Where Are You God?"

The psalm describes the destruction of Jerusalem, the defiling of the temple, and the slaughter of the people, and the most obvious historical setting for this is the period following the destruction of the city by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC. Boice, J. M. (2005). *Psalms 42-106: An Expository Commentary* (pp. 652-653). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books

The title, A Psalm of Asaph, must be understood as either applying to a person of the name of Asaph who lived under the captivity; or else to the family of Asaph; or to a band of singers still bearing the name of that Asaph who flourished in the days of David; for most undoubtedly the Psalm was composed during the Babylonish captivity, when the city of Jerusalem lay in heaps, the temple was defiled, and the people were in a state of captivity. *Adam Clarke's Commentary*.

- I. Do you not \_\_\_\_\_? Vs 1-4
- A. The Heathen-\_\_\_\_\_, anyone other than a Jew
1. Have come into thy inheritance-that which \_\_\_\_\_ to you, God Vs 1
    - a. Thy holy temple-Solomon's Temple
    - b. Jerusalem-God's \_\_\_\_\_ city
  2. Have defiled and laid in heaps Vs 1
    - a. The Temple had been defiled in that gentiles had \_\_\_\_\_ the temple
    - b. Laid in heaps-\_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem
  3. Have killed \_\_\_\_\_ amounts of people Vs 2-3
    - a. So many dead that there are not enough left to \_\_\_\_\_ the dead
    - b. Since the bodies lie where they died, the flesh-eating birds are taking care of the carcasses
    - c. The amount of \_\_\_\_\_ blood from the dead bodies is everywhere
- B. The Jews-the \_\_\_\_\_ of disaster Vs 4
1. The object of \_\_\_\_\_ from neighboring cities
  2. The object of \_\_\_\_\_ and reproach from those near by
- II. How \_\_\_\_\_? Vs 5-6
- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ asked Vs 5
1. How long, God, will your \_\_\_\_\_ last?
    - a. Anger-enraged, very angry; the word is used \_\_\_\_\_ of God's anger
    - b. God's anger against someone due to acts of \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience
      - (1) Moses-Deuteronomy 1:37; 4:21
      - (2) Aaron-Deuteronomy 9:20
      - (3) Israel-Deuteronomy 9:8; 2 Kings 17:18
      - (4) Solomon-1 Kings 11:9
  2. How long, God, will your \_\_\_\_\_ cause destruction?
    - a. Jealousy-zeal, intense fervor, \_\_\_\_\_, emotional involvement
    - b. God's jealousy over Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ Him with idols resulted in His destruction of Israel and Judah by the hand of their enemies
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 6-9
1. Let your anger and jealousy turn on the \_\_\_\_\_ of your children Vs 6-7

2. Turn \_\_\_\_\_ your anger against your children for their idolatry and sinful behavior Vs 8
3. Deliver your children for your \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 9
  - a. Deliver us Vs 9a (*O God of our salvation* [\_\_\_\_\_])
  - b. Cleanse our sins (*purge away* [cover, \_\_\_\_\_, expiate, reconcile])
  - c. For the glory of thy name / for thy name's sake
    - (1) *Glory-honor*, \_\_\_\_\_, wealth
    - (2) *Thy name's sake*-in honor of who you are, and because you \_\_\_\_\_!

III. \_\_\_\_\_? Vs 10

- A. Why should the unbelieving question the \_\_\_\_\_ of God?
- B. Why should your people not have the shedding of their blood \_\_\_\_\_?

IV. \_\_\_\_\_? Vs 11-13

- A. What the psalmist \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 11-12
  1. *Sighing*-the crying or groaning of one who is \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Stop turning a \_\_\_\_\_ ear to the crying and groaning of your people Vs 11a
  3. Stop the \_\_\_\_\_ of your people Vs 11b
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ the enemies for their evil deeds to your children Vs 12a
    - a. *Neighbors*-those whom Israel had \_\_\_\_\_ to lead them away from God
    - b. *Sevenfold*
      - (1) Seven is the number \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
      - (2) Sevenfold would be a reference to God's \_\_\_\_\_ judgment
    - c. *In the bosom*-The area of the body where the \_\_\_\_\_ organs are located
  5. The enemy's evil deeds are actually against \_\_\_\_\_, because they were against God's chosen people Vs 12b
- B. Why the psalmist wants it Vs 13
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ of fellowship and worship Vs 13a
    - a. *So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture*-word used to play on the "\_\_\_\_\_ strings of God"
    - b. *People / sheep of thy pasture*-phrases used to describe Israel as God's chosen people in other OT books
    - c. *Give thee thanks forever*-\_\_\_\_\_ and worship
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ to share with the next generations the goodness of God Vs 13b