

## Psalm 77

The background of Psalm 77 – It is a psalm of Asaph possibly lamenting the destruction of Israel. The genre is poetry.

Names of God in Psalm 77 – v. 3, 16 - God - Eloyim = Supreme God; v. 2, 7 – Lord – Adonay = Ruler; Sovereign; v. 11 – LORD – Yah = Most Vehement One; v. 13-14 – God - EL = Strength; Mighty One;

- <sup>1</sup> I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.
- <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my soul refused to be comforted.
- <sup>3</sup> I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.
- <sup>4</sup> Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- <sup>5</sup> I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.
- <sup>6</sup> I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.
- <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?
- <sup>8</sup> Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?
- <sup>9</sup> Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah.
- <sup>10</sup> And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.
- <sup>11</sup> I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.
- <sup>12</sup> I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.
- <sup>13</sup> Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?
- <sup>14</sup> Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.
- <sup>15</sup> Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.
- <sup>16</sup> The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.
- <sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.
- <sup>18</sup> The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.
- <sup>19</sup> Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.
- <sup>20</sup> Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron

**Commented [CS1]:** v. 2 – When is it appropriate to seek the Lord – in the day of my trouble. Days of trouble must be days of prayer. “Ceased Not” – means it was continually on the psalmist mind.

v. 2 - “My Sore” = The Result of a blow or stroke given by the hand; Contrast this with the psalmist choosing to remember God’s “right hand” in v. 10.

“My soul refused to be comforted” - As a sick man turns away even from the most nourishing food, so did psalmist turn away from comfort.

**Commented [CS2]:** v. 3 – “Complained” = to converse with myself; to ponder – the result is an overwhelmed spirit: In v. 6 – the same word is translated “commune” In v. 12- the same word is translated “talk” v. 3 – “Selah” = a pause

**Commented [CS3]:** vv. 7-9 reveal six questions the psalmist poses about God. These questions reveal doubt in his mind about God’s care of him.

**Commented [CS4]:** v. 10 – the psalmist owned his infirmity – “This is my infirmity”, but he chose what to remember.

**Commented [CS5]:** The psalmist restores a proper view of God in v. 13-20.

Matthew Henry said, this psalm begins with sorrowful complaints but ends with comfortable encouragements.

v. 13 – Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: - Adam Clark’s Commentary – “I must go to the sanctuary now to get comfort, as I went before to get instruction.”

Contrast God’s way in the sanctuary (v. 13) vs. God’s way in the sea (v. 19)

### The psalmist actions in trouble

I cried I sought I remembered I complained I have considered I call to remembrance I commune with my own heart

v. 7-9 - Where did the questions about God come from in v. 7-9? v. 10 – “infirmity” means to be rubbed or worn; weak; sick

v. 10 - What is the significant of God’s right hand? **Cross References** – “Right Hand” Ex. 15:6, 12; Ps. 16:11; 17:7; 18:35; 20:6; 44:3; 63:8; 73:23; 98:1;

Choose to Muse 1) v. 13 Thy way is in the sanctuary 2) V. 10 The years of the right hand of the Most High 3) V. 11 – works of the Lord

4) V. 12 – all thy work 5) V. 12 – of thy doings

### Spiritual truths

- 1) Trouble often attacks my view of God.
- 2) Musing on the negative overwhelms my spirit.
- 3) But I will remember reveals a choice to make in time of trouble

**Psalm 77:1-20 (KJV)**

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- <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.
- <sup>3</sup> I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.
- <sup>4</sup> Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
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