

PSALM 74 A Prayer For Relief From Oppressors (Destroyers)!

12/10/22 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST *Isaac Watts (1708) – (1:51)*

(Psa 74:1-2) O God, why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture? [2] Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed—This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.*

Psalm 74 may have been written at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar. There are others who believe that it was written at the time of the desecration of the temple by Antipas at the time of the Maccabees. Some believe it is just prophetic of what will happen in the future. However, the psalm itself would lend more towards the destruction of the temple under the Babylonians because he speaks of the utter destruction and Antipas did not destroy the temple, he did profane but he did not break it down and burn it as was done by the Babylonians. The picture is this, the city of Jerusalem is a waste. The temple has been destroyed right down to the foundation because when Zerubbabel began to rebuild the temple he had to lay again the foundations of the temple. The city has been raised, the walls are destroyed, the Babylonians had carried the people away captive and there is just a few people left amidst the rubble of the once glorious city of Jerusalem and the temple of God.

PSALM 74 – A Contemplation of Asaph.

Arise, O God, Defend Your Cause

Psa 74:1 O God, why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

- Lord is this desolation going to go on forever? Will we ever rebuild? Will we ever come back? Will it ever be as it was?
- Lord, why are You so angry with Your own people. I can understand Your being angry with the enemies, with the wicked, but Lord Your own people.

Psa 74:2 Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed—This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.

- Now he is going back to the fact that God had redeemed them out of the bondage of Egypt.
- *The rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt,* among Your people. This is where Your people came to worship You. He looked at it and saw the rubble and the ruin.

Psa 74:3 Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.

Psa 74:4 Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They set up their banners for signs.

- To see the enemy's flag flying over the Jerusalem was a hard thing for a man of God to see. It seems like the enemies have triumphed over us. The enemies were roaring their shouts of victory and glee as they were destroying the temple and destroying the houses.

Psa 74:5 They seem like men who lift up Axes among the thick trees.

- To the present day, they still have contests here in the United States of these loggers. With an axe they cut the trees and of course they time how quickly they can fell a tree. In those days where the logging was with axes, they used to have the contests and a man was known for his strength and brawn and power as he could take an axe and bring down a tree and how quickly he could bring down a tree with an axe. That is the kind of contest that they had. A man was famous according to his ability to lift up an axe against thick trees.

Psa 74:6 And now they break down its carved work, all at once, With axes and hammers.

- The temple of Solomon was filled with beautiful carved work, ornamentation. Now they were taking these axes that should be used in the forest in felling the trees and they are using them to destroy this beautiful hard work in the temple of God. How it must have hurt the hearts of God's people to see the temple so desecrated and destroyed, that beautiful, beautiful building with all of the glorious hard works just to be hacked up and broken into pieces with axes and hammers.

Psa 74:7 They have set fire to Your sanctuary; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name to the ground.

- It was taken right down to the foundation. As I said, Zerubbabel had to rebuild the foundation.

Psa 74:8 They said in their hearts, "Let us destroy them altogether." They have burned up all the meeting places of God in the land.

- The reference to the synagogues is what causes other theologians to say it happened at the time of Antipas because they did not really build synagogues throughout the land until a later date. During the time of Zerubbabel is when they started building the synagogues. They did have worship places and it is thought that this references to the worship places.

Psa 74:9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet; Nor is there any among us who knows how long.

- We do not see our own flags flying but the enemy's flags.
- No one is here to let us know how long this is going to go on. Jeremiah was in Egypt, Daniel and Ezekiel were in Babylon. No prophet was left there and so they were sort of in a quandary of how long this desolation is going to be. Jeremiah told him that it was going to be seventy years, but the writings were probably not yet wide spread at that time.

Psa 74:10 O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?

- God, is this the way it is going to end? Is this the end of the story?

Psa 74:11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Take it out of Your bosom and destroy them.

- Let us get some action.

Psa 74:12 For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.

- Now he talks about how God did marvelous works in the past. God I want to see You work, I know You can do marvelous things.

Psa 74:13 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.

- That is referenced to the dividing of the Red Sea so that the children of Israel could pass through as they came out of Egypt.
- The Egyptian army was often called the dragons and it is thought that this is a reference to the fact that God destroyed the army of Pharaoh in the Red Sea.

Psa 74:14 You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

Psa 74:15 You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers.

Psa 74:16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

Psa 74:17 You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

- He talks about God's power manifested in nature.

Psa 74:18 Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD, And that a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.

- Just remember that Lord, they have reproached You.
- So Lord, Your reputation is at stake.

Psa 74:19 Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor forever.

- So the prayer and the plea unto God.

Psa 74:20 Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

Psa 74:21 Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your name.

- God, Your people, do not forsake them completely. When they return, may they return *in* victory.

Psa 74:22 Arise, O God, plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily.

Psa 74:23 Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually.

- So he is calling upon God. We are history, we are wiped out, but God defend Your own name. Bring down the enemy for the reproach that they had made against You.

GREAT THINGS - Phil Wickham (4:26)

Psa 74:12 For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.

*Come let us worship our King Come let us bow at His feet He has done great things
See what our Savior has done See how His love overcomes He has done great things He has done great things*

Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain

Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive

Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things

You've been faithful through every storm You'll be faithful forevermore

You have done great things And I know You will do it again For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"

You will do great things God, You do great things

Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain

Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive

Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things

Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things

Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things You've done great things

Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain

Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive

Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things

You have done great things Oh God, You do great things

FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -

Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY;
ISRAEL:**