

PSALM 79 Prayer for Israel's Restoration!

1/14/23 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

Psa 79:9 *Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!*

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST *Isaac Watts – (1:51) Festival Choir and Hosanna Chorus*

*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.*

Psalms 79 – This psalm speaks to us of where hope can be found in a season of God's chastening or disciplining us in our lives. (**Heb 12:5-8**) *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; [6] FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." [7] If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? [8] But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

This Psalm was written at the destruction of Jerusalem, depicting its desolation in graphic pictures. It evidently treats of times of invasion, oppression, and national overthrow. Asaph was a patriotic poet, and was never more at home than when he rehearsed the history of his nation. Oh that we had national poets whose song should be of the Lord! This Psalm is read at the beginning every Friday at the beginning of Sabbath at the Wailing (Western) Wall in Jerusalem

PSALM 79 – Restore Us, O God To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." a Testimony of Asaph. A Psalm. How Long, O Lord?

Vs. 1-4 – The complaint is poured out!

Psa 79:1 O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps.

- How could our sin be so bad that God would use the pagan nation, Babylonia, to judge us?
- The Babylonian army came the third time, totally destroying the city of Jerusalem came about 586 BC. The houses were just left heaps of rubble. The temple was razed and then burned to the ground. That glorious, beautiful temple of Solomon, destroyed.
- (**1Pe 4:17**) *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

Psa 79:2 The dead bodies of Your servants—They have given as food for the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth.

- The hyenas, the jackals, the wild type dogs were devouring the bodies of the slain. There was not enough people left to bury the dead.

Psa 79:3 Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And there was no one to bury them.

Psa 79:4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and derision to those who are around us.

Vs. 5-12 - Prayer is presented.

Psa 79:5 How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?

- When God's people were defeated, the city of Jerusalem destroyed, the enemies of God, the surrounding nations of the Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites have been sort of the perennial enemies of the Jews, gloated over the fact of the destruction of the city and the destruction of the city as such. This, of course, brought forth from the psalmist the cry of "How long Lord are You going to be angry." He was desiring God's immediate deliverance. The immediate deliverance was not to come. This condition of desolation and captivity was to go on for seventy years.
- The Bible declares that God is a jealous God, that He is jealous of your worshiping other gods. God looks upon His relationship with you as a marriage. If you turn from Him to try to find satisfaction and fulfillment in other gods, as a marriage partner that has been spurned and deserted, so God is jealous of those other things that have taken your devotion and that have captured your heart.

Psa 79:6 Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.

- *Pour out Your wrath on the nations.* Lord, wipe them out!
- *Nations that do not know You, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.* This was a problem that God would use a heathen nation like Babylon to be His instrument of judgement against His people Israel. In the book of Habakkuk this was his complaint. First of all he complained because Israel was so bad and it was getting worse. Having an insight into some of the behind the scene episodes that were going on in the government Habakkuk said, "Lord, please don't let me know anything else of what's going on because I'm frustrated. There is such corruption. There is such evil and Lord, You are not doing a thing about it."
- The fact that God would, it would seem, allow and tolerate the evil was a real problem for Habakkuk. So God said to Habakkuk, "I am doing a work that if I should tell you your ears would tingle. For I am preparing the Babylonians. I am going to be using them as My instrument of judgement and they shall come and they shall destroy this place." Habakkuk said, "Lord, I don't understand that because it's true that we are bad but the Babylonians are worse. They are the bottom of the pit! Why would You use a nation that is more evil to bring Your judgement upon Your people"? He couldn't understand the workings of God, Babylon the heathen nation being used as God's instrument of judgement.
- You see, those that know the will of God and do not according to it are really judged by a higher standard than those that don't know. So that some cannibalistic native who has never heard of Jesus Christ, never known of the love of God, grown up in that pagan culture knowing only their pagan customs, will have a better chance before the judgement of God than a person who has sat in church, heard the gospel, knows the truth of God but who has not walked according to it.
- In the twelfth chapter of Luke, Jesus speaks of that servant who had known the will of the master and yet didn't do according to it. He said, "He would be beaten with many stripes, yet that person who did things that were deserving of many stripes because he didn't know will be beaten with few. Unto whom much is given much should be required. So a person who stands before God will be judged according to the light of God that he has received. As Peter said concerning many, "It would have been better for them to have never heard of the way of truth than having heard of it, reject it." Once you have heard of God's love and His Son Jesus Christ, who because of God's love, came and took your sin and died in your place, once you know that truth and you reject it you stand in greater jeopardy and you will receive a heavier judgement than the person who has

never heard. So God often uses the heathen as His instruments of bringing judgement upon His people.

- Our nation is in a parallel condition to the nation of Israel prior to its fall to Babylon. Those same things that existed in Israel, turning their backs on God, becoming a secular nation and stretching out their arms to worship the gods of materialism are the same things that we see happening in our nation today. A nation that was founded upon God, whose name is printed in its coins “In God we trust” but has turned their backs upon God. God just let us see there the moral weakness of our nation, the corruption. We didn’t seem to learn the lesson but have only persisted in that same pattern away from God.
- The prayer of the psalmist is that God would pour out His wrath upon the heathen that have not known You, but that isn’t really the way of God. He has great mercy towards those who don’t know. But He is upset and He wants to take vengeance against Babylon.

Psa 79:7 For they have devoured Jacob, And laid waste his dwelling place.

- Because they had so utterly destroyed the land. The plea is that God would not remember the former iniquities. The plea for forgiveness.

Psa 79:8 Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low.

- ***(Isa 64:9) Do not be furious, O LORD, Nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look—we all are Your people! (Jer31:34) No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.***
- That prayer for God’s mercy, which is always my prayer. I never pray for justice unless it’s on someone else.
- “Why should the heathen now say where is their God?” In that day, in those cultures, a defeat of a nation was tantamount to the defeat of their god. Every nation had their own gods and every nation believe that their gods help them in battle and that their victory over other nations proved the superiority of their god over the other gods. All wars were equated with the gods that they served. Thus, as we read the Old Testament, as we read the history of Israel, it was the Lord who was going forth in battle. It was the Lord who defeated their enemies, it was the Lord who gave them victory, drove out the enemies from before them. They attributed it to God, the true and living God, the reason for their strength and for their victory.
- When they were defeated, to the enemy nations it was a sign that their God was not strong enough to deliver them and to help them. The real reason was they had forsaken God and the god they were trusting in was not strong enough to help them because they were trusting in the flesh. They were living after the flesh, they had forsaken Jehovah, thus the Lord said, “If you forsake Me, I’ll forsake you.” The enemy nations, not really understanding the relationship that God intended between Himself and Israel, attributed the fall to the weakness or the inability of their God to help them and to defend them. So he is praying that God would help them.

Psa 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!

- Lord, not because we deserve it but just because Your name is being castigated because of the defeat of the people.
- Now again he is pleading unto God on the basis of God’s nature and for God’s sake do these things. This is not that we deserve them but Lord because people, the heathen, don’t understand.

Psa 79:10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight The avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed.

- Wanting God at this point to bring vengeance. ***(Psa 42:3) My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" (Psa 42:10) As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"***

Psa 79:11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die;

- Even those that have been carried to captive. Many of them were appointed for execution.

Psa 79:12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom Their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.

- ***Sevenfold into their bosom.*** A petition that God would restore His reputation by bringing a much worse destruction of the enemies than what had happened to Israel. (***Jer 51:6***) *Flee from the midst of Babylon, And everyone save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; He shall recompense her.*

V. 13 – Praise is promoted!

Psa 79:13 So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

- In other words, give it to them seven times worse Lord than what's happened to us.
- Sad and tragic things, the psalmist did see the desolation. This whole scene is the background for the book of Lamentations when Jeremiah sat there in the cave looking over the rubble that was once the great city of Jerusalem. He was looking over the ashes and the rubble of the temple and there he is weeping because of the people's steadfast stubbornness in resisting God and as the result, this doom. Even while the Babylonian defeat lasted over a period of several years. Three different sieges from 605-586 BC.
- The first one should have been the warning. Jeremiah did warn them he said, "God is saying to you look, don't destroy yourself." But the people wouldn't listen to Jeremiah. They had false prophets that were going around saying, "Let's take them on. God's going to defeat them." They were putting these horns on running around saying, "We are going to push Babylon out of here." Jeremiah said, "No, no, no. Don't resist them." Jeremiah was arrested as a traitor they said that he was demoralizing the people saying, "Don't resist the Babylonians. Surrender to them so you could save yourself and so you could save the city."
- They steadfastly refused to obey God. They brought it upon themselves because of their stubborn continued rebellion. So it had to happen.

Psa 79:13 So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING – *St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) William Draper - (born 1855) – Marantha (3:39)*

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise him, alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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; Luiz Lula da Silva - 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: