

Will You Be Angry Forever? (c. September 587 BC)

Psalm 79

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance;
They have defiled Your holy temple;
They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have given the dead bodies of Your servants for food to the birds of the heavens,
The flesh of Your godly ones to the beasts of the earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem;
And there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors,
A scoffing and derision to those around us.
- 5 How long, O LORD? Will You be angry forever?
Will Your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You,
And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob
And laid waste his habitation.
- 8 Do not remember the iniquities of *our* forefathers against us;
Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us,
For we are brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name;
And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake.
- 10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"
Let there be known among the nations in our sight,
Vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.
- 11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You;
According to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are doomed to die.
- 12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom
The reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.
- 13 So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture
Will give thanks to You forever;
To all generations we will tell of Your praise.

Arise, O God, Defend Your Cause (c. September 587 BC)

Psalm 74

A Maskil of Asaph.

- 1 O God, why have You rejected *us* forever?
Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
- 2 Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old,
Which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance;
And this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.
- 3 Turn Your footsteps toward the perpetual ruins;
The enemy has damaged everything within the sanctuary.
- 4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place;
They have set up their own standards for signs.
- 5 It seems as if one had lifted up
His axe in a forest of trees.

6 And now all its carved work
They smash with hatchet and hammers.

7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground;
They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name.

8 They said in their heart, "Let us completely subdue them."
They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

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

10 How long, O God, will the adversary revile,
And the enemy spurn Your name forever?

11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand?
From within Your bosom, destroy *them*!

12 Yet God is my king from of old,
Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth.

13 You divided the sea by Your strength;
You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

15 You broke open springs and torrents;
You dried up ever-flowing streams.

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

17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth;
You have made summer and winter.

18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled,
And a foolish people has spurned Your name.

19 Do not deliver the soul of Your turtledove to the wild beast;
Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.

20 Consider the covenant;
For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

21 Let not the oppressed return dishonored;
Let the afflicted and needy praise Your name.

22 Arise, O God, *and* plead Your own cause;
Remember how the foolish man reproaches You all day long.

23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries,
The uproar of those who rise against You which ascends continually.

How Shall We Sing the LORD's Song? (c. September 587 BC)

Psalm 137

1 By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion.

2 Upon the willows in the midst of it
We hung our harps.

3 For there our captors demanded of us songs,
And our tormentors mirth, *saying*,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

- 4 How can we sing the LORD's song
In a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
May my right hand forget *her skill*.
- 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
If I do not remember you,
If I do not exalt Jerusalem
Above my chief joy.
- 7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
The day of Jerusalem,
Who said, "Raze it, raze it
To its very foundation."
- 8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one,
How blessed will be the one who repays you
With the recompense with which you have repaid us.
- 9 How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones
Against the rock.

In the Day of Trouble I Seek the LORD (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 77

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun.

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 My voice *rises* to God, and I will cry aloud;
My voice *rises* to God, and He will hear me.
- 2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;
In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;
My soul refused to be comforted.
- 3 *When* I remember God, then I am disturbed;
When I sigh, then my spirit grows faint. *Selah*.
- 4 You have held my eyelids *open*;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- 5 I have considered the days of old,
The years of long ago.
- 6 I will remember my song in the night;
I will meditate with my heart,
And my spirit ponders:
- 7 Will the Lord reject forever?
And will He never be favorable again?
- 8 Has His lovingkindness ceased forever?
Has *His* promise come to an end forever?
- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious,
Or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion? *Selah*.
- 10 Then I said, "It is my grief,
That the right hand of the Most High has changed."
- 11 I shall remember the deeds of the LORD;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
- 12 I will meditate on all Your work
And muse on Your deeds.

- 13 Your way, O God, is holy;
What god is great like our God?
- 14 You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your strength among the peoples.
- 15 You have by Your power redeemed Your people,
The sons of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah.*
- 16 The waters saw You, O God;
The waters saw You, they were in anguish;
The deeps also trembled.
- 17 The clouds poured out water;
The skies gave forth a sound;
Your arrows flashed here and there.
- 18 The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
The lightnings lit up the world;
The earth trembled and shook.
- 19 Your way was in the sea
And Your paths in the mighty waters,
And Your footprints may not be known.
- 20 You led Your people like a flock
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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