

Rhema Christian Center
Triumphant Tuesday-Bible Study
Psalm 79 (NIV)
January 10, 2023
Presenter: Eddie Poindexter

PSALM 79
Asaph's poetic song
Prayer In A Time of National Disaster

Disaster precedes reflection:

God gave his people victory over Egypt (Psalm 77) and helped them march through the wilderness and then conquer Canaan (Psalm 78).

He also gave them King David, who defeated their enemies and expanded the kingdom.

But now God's people are captive, the city and temple ruined, and the heathen nations are triumphant.

We see Asaph pondering four different Roles as he contemplates the defeat of Judah by the Babylonians.

Each division of the psalms opens with an address to Jehovah:

- ❖ "O God" (v 1)
- ❖ "How long, LORD (v 5)
- ❖ "O God of our salvation" (v 9)
- ❖ "O LORD" (v 12)

Role #1

Asaph The Mourner: Beholding God's judgment (vv. 1-4)

V.1 O GOD, the nations have invaded your inheritance; They have invaded your holy temple, they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.

- ❖ The Babylonian invasion, and Judah conquest (586 B.C.)
- ❖ The neighboring nations (Ammon, Moab, Edom) scornful delight
- ❖ Inheritance invasion, Jerusalem in rubble
- ❖ Thy holy temple have they defiled
- ❖

Deuteronomy 28:25 NLT

The LORD will cause you to be defeated by your enemies. You will attack your enemies from one direction, but you will scatter from them in seven! You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

V.2 They have left the dead bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the sky, the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.

- ❖ The land was God's inheritance (Ex. 15:17), and he shared it with the people of Israel, who were His inheritance (Deut. 4:20).
- ❖ They could live in the land and enjoy its blessing as long as they obeyed the covenant.
- ❖ With repeated disobedience and rebellion, the result of God's discipline is inevitable!
- ❖

Deut. 28:26 Your carcasses will be food for all the birds and wild animals, and there will be no one to frighten them away.

VSS. 3-4 They have poured out blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury the dead. 4.) We are objects of contempt to our neighbors, of scorn and derision to those around us.

- ❖ Dead bodies left unburied
- ❖ A terrible disgrace for a Jew (Lev. 26:30)

Role # 2

Asaph The Sufferer: Feeling God's anger (Vss. 5-8)

V. 5 **How long, LORD?** Wilt thou be angry for ever? Shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

- ❖ How long? Anger
- ❖ How long? Jealousy
- ❖ Punish them, not us!
- ❖ Sins of past generations
- ❖ Mercy, enough judgment already.

According to the Old Testament, God's wrath and judgment often fall on entire nations because of the sins of the people within those nations. Here Asaph pleaded for judgment on kingdoms that refused to acknowledge God's authority.

Ironically, Asaph's own nation of Judah was being judged by God for refusing to do this very thing (2 Chronicles 36:14-20).

These were people who had sworn allegiance to God but were now **rejecting him**. This made their judgment even worse.

Israel's "Redeemer lives"

Isaiah 54:7-8 MSG **Your Redeemer God says:**

"I left you but only for a moment. Now with enormous compassion, I'm bringing you back. In an outburst of anger I turned my back on you, but only for a moment. It's with lasting love that I am tenderly caring for you.

God's unfailing love at work.

Role #3

Asaph The Intercessor: Pleading for God's Help (Vss.9-11)

Vs. 9) Help us, **O God of our salvation**, for the glory of thy name:and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

"Help us O God"!

Asaph intercedes with God to forgive Israel for her apostasy, and to punish the nations that have destroyed Jerusalem and God's temple.

Repentance on display:

- Personal repentance
- National repentance
- Ancestral repentance

Asaph's concern was for the glory of God's name (vs. 9,12), and he felt that a miraculous deliverance for Judah would accomplish that, but no deliverance came.

Intercession, may be defined as holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention.

In ancient days, a nation's victory was proof that its gods were stronger than the gods of the enemy, so the Babylonians taunted the Jews and asked, "**Where is thy God?**"

Intercessory prayer of compassion

V.11 (TPT) LISTEN, Lord!

Hear the sighing of all the prisoners of war, all those doomed to die. Demonstrate your glory-power, and come and rescue your condemned children!

Can we expect God to care for us so others won't scoff at our beliefs? In the end, God's glory will be evident to all people,

but **in the meantime**, we must endure suffering with patience and allow God to purify us through it.

For reasons we don't know, the heathens are allowed to scoff at believers. Believers should be prepared for criticism, jokes, and unkind remarks because God does not place us beyond the attacks of scoffers.

Faith under pressure

James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true color. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

Surely God would have pity on the prisoners and those ready to die.

God's love for his **(image bearers)** is unconditional and his covenant is eternal.

Role # 4

Asaph the Worshipper: Promising to Praise God (vs. 12-13)

Vs. 12 And render unto our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, **O LORD**.

God had called his people to praise Him.

*(Isa. 43:21) This people have I formed for myself; **they shall shew forth my praise.***

God had chosen Babylon to chasten Judah for her sins, but the Babylonians had rejoiced at the privilege and had gone too far in their cruelty.

"SEVENFOLD"

V.12 (NIV) Pay back in the laps of our neighbors seven times the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord

Sevenfold meaning: being seven times as great or as many.

Sevenfold gifts of grace:

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, (piety/reverence), and fear of the Lord.

The psalmist here intercedes with God to forgive Israel for her apostasy, and to punish the nations that have destroyed Jerusalem and God's temple.

Asaph is motivated by concern for God's glory and the promotion of His name among the unbelieving nations.

V. 13 So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.

- God chooses whom he desires to advance
- See hard and perilous times as a time to feel , learn, respond, strategize and hear godly wisdom.
- Perilous and hard times yield glory and victorious times.

Psalm 94:12 **BLESSED** is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy Law;

O come let us sing

Let us make sure that our worship and praise are accompanied *by hearts that are obedient to the LORD.*

Psalm 96:2 sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. 3.) declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. 4.) For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all Gods. 5.) For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

ALWAYS GIVE GOD THE GLORY

Reference and support resources:

Warren W. Wiersbe, Psalm 1-89

Christ-Centered Exposition, Platt, Shaddix, Mason

The Full Life Study Bible

NIV ZONDERVAN STUDY BIBLE

The Passion Translation, The New Testament

Life application Study Bible-KJV