

Psalm 74-75: Pray & Praise.

Psalm 74.

1-2: The Psalmist asked **God** not to continue His hot **anger against the sheep of His pasture**, those He has redeemed to be His **inheritance** and His dwelling place on **Zion**.

3: Asaph prayed that God would take note of and rescue His people for **the enemy** had ruined **the sanctuary** and destroyed the nation.

4-8: The enemy had **roared in** and demolished **the place**. **The carved** work was **smashed** by **axes and hatchets**, **the dwelling place** was **burned**, and all the assembly places in the land were also **burned**.

9: What troubled the Psalmist was that there was no prophet to give spiritual explanation, counsel, wisdom, warning and encouragement to the people.

***Deuteronomy 28: 1 and 15** – Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth...But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.*

***2 Chronicles 36:16-18** – But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His Words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy. Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into His hand. And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and he treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all the precious possessions.*

10-17: Since no prophet was available the Psalmist himself appealed to **God** for help, asking **how long and why do you let these things happen? The author then reminds God of who He is and what He has done in the past, asking Him to act immediately.**

18-23: He asked God to *not forget* the appalling mocking by **the enemy** and to protect His **dove**, a defenceless bird and look on His **covenant (unbreakable promises)** so that His people – **oppressed poor and needy** - would not suffer defeat.

Asaph asked God to remember His people because their enemy had devastated the sanctuary. He prayed that God, who had helped destroy their enemies in the past, would not permit their reproach.

Psalm 75.

1-3: On behalf of the people, Asaph praised **God** for His nearness and His wondrous works. Notable among God's deeds is His judging; and even though His judging causes **the earth** to **quake**, He sustains it.

4-6: God warns the wicked to change their heart attitude toward Him. They should not arrogantly defy God (lifting **up horns**). Moreover, the wicked should not speak with a stiff **neck**, that is, in stubborn rebellion against God. The wicked should realize that when He judges, no help comes from any earthly direction.

Hebrews 10:31 - *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

James 4:6b – *God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

7-8: The Psalmist warned the wicked that because **God** is the Judge they will experience His full wrath. This is pictured as being made to drink **a cup of foaming wine**.

Psalm 7:11 – *God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day*

9-10: Asaph vowed to **sing praise to God** because of the triumph of the righteous. In verse 10 God may be speaking, declaring that His cutting **off** the defiance **of all the wicked** and exalting **the righteous** will be cause for praise.

Psalm 57:7-9 – *My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp, I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing to you among the nations.*

This Psalm celebrates anticipated victory. The Psalmist recognized that God will establish judgment at the appointed time and that the judgment will destroy the wicked and exalts the righteous. On the basis of this he warned the wicked to submit to God who alone can deliver.