

PSALM 77

There is no conclusive evidence as to the occasion for this psalm, but it appears that Asaph is troubled because God has cast off his people, and there seems no likelihood of restoration. It is a question we all face: Why does God let things continue so long and tragically without giving any token of his interest and concern? But let us, like Asaph, remember God's goodness and mercy in times past; and when we grow faint, let us recall that though God's ways are not our ways, they are holy. Deliverance will come in his own time.

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- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious, or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion?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 YAHWEH; 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.

PRAYER

Almighty God, we praise you for your wonders performed in bringing Israel out of bondage from Egypt. We praise you too for the wonders performed in answering our own prayers. But we most especially praise you for the wonder of redeeming grace. Strengthen us that we may do the work to which you have called us, that we may not faint in seasons of trouble, and that our eyes may be opened to see your divine providence working for us. Keep our feet on the straight and narrow path until we reach the ends of our days here, that we may enjoy endless days in the presence of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.