

## *PSALM 79*

This psalm may be considered in conjunction with Psalm 74, both written after Jerusalem was laid waste by the Chaldeans. At the time of the 74th psalm, the destruction of the temple had begun. By the time of the writing of this 79th psalm, it appears to have been completed. It was the worship of Yahweh, Israel's God, that caused the Chaldeans to destroy the sanctuary and massacre the people. In verses 1-4 Asaph pours out his complaint, in verses 5-12 he prays for God to deliver his people and avenge his enemies, and in the last verse he promises thanksgiving and praise.

### **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 YAHWEH? 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 seven-fold 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.

## PRAYER

*Lord God, in your great mercy you have given us the sacred history of your people Israel. Let us lay hold of it as a pearl of great price. Let us read and meditate on it day and night. Let us eagerly pursue the Old Testament history that we might learn how to walk in the way of obedience, and open our eyes to see the Saviour, who is the center and focal point of it all. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.*