



Psalms 74

12/29/19 AM

WHEN HEAVEN SEEMS SILENT

Introduction:

Superscription: "A Maskil of Asaph" (c.f. Ps. 51; 73-78)

maskil (13x) =

"This tormented psalm has all the marks of [the] national disaster that also produced...the book of Lamentations, namely the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 587 BC." – Will Varner

I. ISRAEL'S FRUSTRATION (74:1-11)

A. A Prayer of Lamentation (vs. 1-9)

God seems to have angrily rejected us.

God has allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed.

God has allowed the Temple to be desecrated.

God has stopped sending us prophets.

B. A Prayer for Retribution (vs. 10-11)

God's seeming disinterest.

God's seeming distance.

God's seeming delay.

II. ISRAEL'S FAITH (74:12-23)

A. A Prayer of Exaltation (vs. 12-17)

National Proof of God's Power

Natural Proof of God's Power

B. A Prayer for Restoration (vs18-23)

Remember Your People

Respect Your Promise

Rekindle Your Praise

Reveal Your Power

Lamentations 3:19-26

Conclusion:

- 1) Intimacy with God means we can ask questions.
- 2) Yet, there is a right way and a wrong way to ask those questions.
- 3) Always, we must remember that God's sovereign purposes may not be made clear to us in the process.
- 4) The first requirement in any appeal we make to God is a genuine affirmation of faith in Him.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How does this psalm fit into the history of Israel? What do we learn from the frustration? from the faith?
- 2) How do you maintain the proper attitude in complaining to God? (whine vs. plead)
- 3) If the enemies of God are your enemies too, what is the best way to enter the battle against them?
- 4) What causes the silence of heaven? What is the way back?