



Psalms 79

8/9/20 PM

VENGEANCE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

Introduction:

“When you want God to be harder on others than He is on you, it is time to start seeing your sins the way God sees them.” – Warren Wiersbe

Superscription: “A Psalm [*mizmor*] of Asaph.”

I. THE PAIN OF RUINATION (vs. 1-4)

A. The Desecration of the Sanctuary (vs. 1)

“O God [*Elohim*], the nations [*goyim*] have invaded Your inheritance.”

“They have defiled Your holy temple.”

“They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.” (see what follows)

B. The Decimation of the Saints (vs. 2-3)

“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.” (Jeremiah 9:22; c.f. 7:33; 8:2)

“They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem.” (Lamentations 1:7-8)

“there was no one to bury them”

C. The Derision of Scoffers (vs. 4)

“We have become a reproach to our neighbors...”

“...a scoffing and derision to those around us.”

II. A PRAYER FOR RESTORATION (vs. 5-8)

A. Restrain Your Anger (vs. 5)

“How long, O LORD [*Yahweh*]? Will You be angry forever?” (Psalm 13:1-2; Revelation 6:10)

Jeremiah 25:11; Daniel 9:2

“Will Your jealousy burn like fire?”

Joel 2:18

Zechariah 1:14

Exodus 20:5

B. Release Your Wrath (vs. 6-7)

“Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, and upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.”

“For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.” (Jeremiah 10:25)

C. Renew Your Mercy (vs. 8)

“Do not remember the iniquities of our forefathers against us.”

“Let Your compassion [plural!] come quickly to meet us, for we are brought very low.”

III. A PRAYER FOR RETRIBUTION (vs. 9-12)

A. Rescue Us! (vs. 9-10)

“Help us, O God [*Elohim*] of our salvation, for the glory of Your name.”

“Deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name’s sake.”

“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.”

B. Repay Them! (vs. 11-12)

“Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You.”

“According to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are doomed to die.”

“Return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom the reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord [*Adonai*].”

Conclusion: Our Promise (vs. 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.”

When God’s people are devastated by the persecution of the wicked, they must pray for forgiveness for their own sins as they make their appeal to God to fulfill His plan and vindicate His name.