

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

HELP US, O, GOD

PSALMS 79

Text: Psalms 79:9

Psalm 79:9

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

Introduction:

Asaph surveys the destruction of Israel. The city is destroyed, the temple is ruined, and the people are estranged from the promise land.

Asaph's grief expresses the tone of many believers who watch as the enemy seemingly gains victory over the people of God.

Note:

1. THE SURVEY (VS. 1-4)

Psalm 79:1-4

¹ O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps. ² The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. ³ Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them. ⁴ We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

As Asaph surveys the devastation he sees:

A. An Utter Destruction (vs. 1)

Psalm 79:1

¹ O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

These heathens include the Babylon, Ammon, Edom, and Moab.

The temple of God was disgraced and ultimately destroyed.

Note not only the destruction but also:

B. An Unparalleled Death (vs. 2-3)

Psalm 79:2-3

² The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. ³ Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.

Tis scene being described was a gruesome and foul scene.

His songs once filled the air with poetry, poise, and praise.

Now he is singing of destruction and death.

We see not only the destruction and death but also:

C. An Undisputable Defeat (vs. 4)

Psalm 79:4

⁴ We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

Long gone are the glory days of Israel.

They are now mocked by their surrounding neighbors.

We not only see the Survey but also:

2. THE SORROW (VS. 5-8)

Psalm 79:5-8

⁵ How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire? ⁶ Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name. ⁷ For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place. ⁸ O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

Because of the sorrow we see:

A. His Pondering (vs. 5)

Psalm 79:5

⁵ How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

Asaph along with the rest of Israel asked questions of God.

They recognized that their national condition was the result of God's wrath and judgment.

His pondering led to:

B. His Plea (vs. 6)

Psalm 79:6

⁶ Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

While experiencing the judgment of God Asaph asks the Lord to pour out wrath upon the heathen nations.

God was using the heathen enemies of Israel as instruments of His judgment.

We also note not only his pondering and plea but also:

C. His Poverty (vs. 7)

Psalm 79:7

⁷ For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

As seems to want to remind God of His covenant with Jacob.

He looks at the spiritual and natural poverty of Israel and wonders if God will vindicate His people from the hand of enemy.

We have noted his pondering, plea and his poverty but also:

D. His Placement (vs. 8)

Psalm 79:8

⁸ O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

This was a spiritual lowland for Israel.

It is at this point a spirit of repentance begins to spring forth.

Asaph pleads for mercy and ask God to “forget” the idolatry and indifference of days gone by.

We close considering:

3. THE SUPPLICATION (VS. 9-13)

Psalm 79:9-13

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. ¹⁰ Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed. ¹¹ Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die; ¹² And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have

reproached thee, O Lord. ¹³ So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Note:

A. The Request (vs. 9-10)

Psalm 79:9-10

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. ¹⁰ Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

This request involves not only salvation and deliverance but also vengeance.

Asaph knows that God can save, and he is asking God to deliver them on the merit of His own glory and name sake.

Note not only his Humble Request but also:

B. The Revenge (vs. 11-12)

Psalm 79:11-12

¹¹ Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou

those that are appointed to die;¹² And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

This supplication is not just for the deliverance of Israel, it is for the defense of the name of God.

Not one final thought and that is

C. The Rejoicing (vs. 13)

Psalm 79:13

¹³ So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Asaph concludes this psalm in faith.

The fact that God's sheep will praise Him and thanks Him forever is a testimony that Asaph believes God will indeed preserve Israel.

Close:

The heathen rage.

The enemy prosper.

The foe stands strong.

But God will ultimately preserve, keep, and defend His people for His glory and honor.