

CERTAIN COMFORT FOR A CRUSHED SPIRIT:

Confidence in Times of Crisis

PSALM 77

(A Psalm of Asaph)



CRY FOR HELP (v. 1-3)

Prayer to God in time of need:

- Passionate shout (for deliverance; intended to be heard) (v.1)
- Persistently seeking God (v.2)
- Prolonged reflection (Psalm 77:3, 6, 11-12; Psalm 74:1 ↔ Psalm 77:7)

Selah

CONSIDERANCE OF HAPPIER TIMES (v. 4-9)

Painful Reflections:

- Times past unlike the present distress of Israel (see Ps. 74)
- Unable to sleep or speak (depression); (v.4)
- Praise and songs while remembering in the night (v. 5 and 6)
- Self-interrogation: rhetorical questions; has God changed? No! (v.7-9, see reverse insert)

Selah

COMFORT IN REMEMBRANCE (v. 10-15)

- New hope: Psalmist focuses on works of the unchanging God who delivers His people, not the current crisis.
- New decision: Psalmist views the present crisis in light of God's deeds of the past. The idea is that God is faithful past, present, and future.
- New conclusion: God's nature and character are unchanging; so reflect on:
 - Who God is, has been, always will be
 - What He has done; His works and deeds

Selah

CONFIDENT DELIVERANCE (v. 16-20)

Deliverance and Victory in God:

- God's ability and power is without question
- Exodus 14: God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt (split the Red Sea)
- God led His people but was not seen (v.20)

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THE SHEPHERD KING

- The act of remembering reminds the psalmist of the true nature and identity of God (v. 12-20)
- The Exodus 14 story foreshadows NT deliverance by the Messiah (Good Shepherd, Mt. 2:6, Jn. 10)
- Jesus works with power only ascribed to God:
 - Only GOD tramples the waves of the sea (Job 9:8)
 - Jesus masters seas & waves (Ps. 77:16-9 & Mt. 8:23-7)
 - Jesus walks on water, says, “I AM” (Mt. 14:27/Ex. 3:14)
- Romans 8:31-32, 38-39; John 10

Do not look to your situation in times of crisis, instead look to Jesus Christ; a right relationship with God requires good spiritual memory!

- PRAY, MEDITATE ON, and PURSUE Jesus (Jn.10)
- REMEMBER and sing His deeds and works
- READ God's Word daily (the Bible)
- THANK God for what he will do (Ro. 8:31-2, 38-9)

