



1

Psalm 74:1-11 (CSB)

¹ Why have you rejected us forever, God?
Why does your anger burn against the
sheep of your pasture?
² Remember your congregation, which
you purchased long ago and redeemed
as the tribe for your own possession.
Remember Mount Zion where you dwell.

2

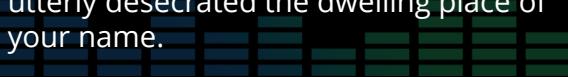
Psalm 74:1-11 (CSB)

³ Make your way to the perpetual ruins,
to all that the enemy has destroyed in
the sanctuary.
⁴ Your adversaries roared in the
meeting place where you met with us.
They set up their emblems as signs.

3

Psalm 74:1-11 (CSB)

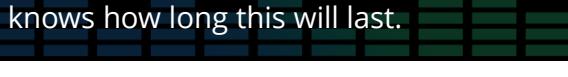
⁵ It was like men in a thicket of trees,
wielding axes,
⁶ then smashing all the carvings with
hatchets and picks.
⁷ They set your sanctuary on fire; they
utterly desecrated the dwelling place of
your name.



4

Psalm 74:1-11 (CSB)

⁸ They said in their hearts, "Let's
oppress them relentlessly." They
burned every place throughout the
land where God met with us.
⁹ There are no signs for us to see. There
is no longer a prophet. And none of us
knows how long this will last.



5

Psalm 74:1-11 (CSB)

¹⁰ God, how long will the enemy mock?
Will the foe insult your name forever?
¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand?
Stretch out your right hand and
destroy them!



6

1. Harnessing the power of biblical lament in your life will deepen your relationship with God.

7

Psalm 74:1-3 (CSB)

¹ Why have you rejected us forever, God?
Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture?
² Remember your congregation, which you purchased long ago and redeemed as the tribe for your own possession.
Remember Mount Zion where you dwell.

8

Psalm 74:1-3 (CSB)

³ Make your way to the perpetual ruins, to all that the enemy has destroyed in the sanctuary.

9

Psalm 74:4-8 (CSB)

⁴ Your adversaries roared in the meeting place where you met with us.
They set up their emblems as signs.
⁵ It was like men in a thicket of trees,
wielding axes,
⁶ then smashing all the carvings with
hatchets and picks.

10

Psalm 74:4-8 (CSB)

⁷ They set your sanctuary on fire; they utterly desecrated the dwelling place of your name.
⁸ They said in their hearts, "Let's oppress them relentlessly." They burned every place throughout the land where God met with us.

11

Psalm 74:9-11 (CSB)

⁹ There are no signs for us to see. There is no longer a prophet. And none of us knows how long this will last.
¹⁰ God, how long will the enemy mock?
Will the foe insult your name forever?

12

Psalm 74:9-11 (CSB)

¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand?
Stretch out your right hand and
destroy them!



13

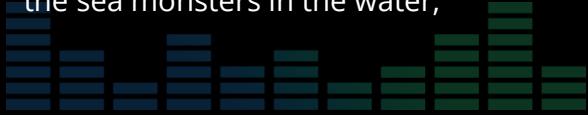
2. It is okay to express grief and
doubt to God.



14

Psalm 74:12-17 (CSB)

¹² God my King is from ancient times,
performing saving acts on the earth.
¹³ You divided the sea with your
strength; you smashed the heads of
the sea monsters in the water;



15

Psalm 74:12-17 (CSB)

¹⁴you crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you fed him to the creatures of
the desert.
¹⁵You opened up springs and streams;
you dried up ever-flowing rivers.



16

Psalm 74:12-17 (CSB)

¹⁶The day is yours, also the night; you
established the moon and the sun.
¹⁷You set all the boundaries of the
earth; you made summer and winter.



17

3. Biblical lament starts with grief,
but continues onto belief.



18

Psalm 74:18-23 (CSB)

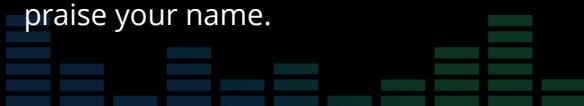
¹⁸ Remember this: the enemy has mocked the LORD, and a foolish person has insulted your name.
¹⁹ Do not give to beasts the life of your dove; do not forget the lives of your poor people forever.



19

Psalm 74:18-23 (CSB)

²⁰ Consider the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of violence.
²¹ Do not let the oppressed turn away in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.



20

Psalm 74:18-23 (CSB)

²² Rise up, God, champion your cause! Remember the insults that fools bring against you all day long.
²³ Do not forget the clamor of your adversaries, the tumult of your opponents that goes up constantly.



21

4. Make your plea in light of the truth of who God is.



22

Job 13:15-16 (CSB)

¹⁵ Even if he kills me, I will hope in him. I will still defend my ways before him.
¹⁶ Yes, this will result in my deliverance, for no godless person can appear before him.



23

5. Lament teaches us to grieve, believe, and plead.



24

Psalm 23:4 (CSB)

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.



25

- In the Old Testament, God chose to deal with the Fall by sending Adam and Eve **out** of the garden.
- He called Abraham **away** from his land into a place he had never been without a roadmap.

26

- He rescued his people **out** of slavery and when they failed to trust God, he sent them to **wander** the wilderness.
- When the nation fell out of favor with God because of idolatry and disobedience, he sent them into **exile**...

27

- Before Jesus started his ministry he was led by the Spirit **into...**

28

6. When God wants to deal with his people, it is often in the wilderness.

29

Wilderness of Loss and Grief

30

Wilderness of Discipline



31

Hebrews 12:5-9 (CSB)

⁵ My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reproved by him,
⁶ for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives.

32

Hebrews 12:5-9 (CSB)

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?
⁸ But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

33

Hebrews 12:5-9 (CSB)

⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live?



34

Wilderness of Waiting

35

James 1:2-4 (CSB)

² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,
³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.



36

James 1:2-4 (CSB)

⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.



37

"You must submit to supreme suffering in order to discover the completion of joy"

~ John Calvin



38

Psalm 119:71-72 (CSB)

⁷¹ It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn your statutes.

⁷² Instruction from your lips is better for me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.



39

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (CSB)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

40

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (CSB)

¹⁸ So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

41

"Not only is all your affliction momentary, not only is all your affliction light in comparison to eternity and the glory there, but all of it is totally meaningful. Every millisecond of your pain — from fallen nature or fallen man — every millisecond of your misery in the path of obedience is producing a peculiar glory you will get because of that suffering."

~ John Piper

42

"Our suffering is not worthy of the name of suffering. When I consider my crosses, tribulations, and temptations, I shame myself almost to death, thinking what are they in comparison to the sufferings of my savior, Jesus Christ."

~ Martin Luther

43

I hear you calling
But my God I am scared
Still if You lead me
I will follow You there

44

If it takes everything,
And I'm left with nothing,
And if Your glory follows after the cross
Then God so help me I will carry it on.

45