



Psalms for Life

Daily Readings: (10/10 - 10/17) **Psalm 71-77**

Sermon: **God my King is Working Salvation in the Midst of the Earth** (Psalm 74)

Summary: Psalm 74 is a community lament.¹ The misery of the Jews is here at its deepest.² God's people had just suffered the destruction of the Temple. Today, biblical history is seen from a unique perspective as the Scriptures are read, studied and applied. The benefit of knowing Jesus and his resurrection and all that followed, impacts our understanding of God and all that is learned about Him in the Old Testament. The writings of the apostles record the unique working of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the church and the world. What the Jews saw recorded in Psalm 74, caused them great concern. What we learn from them is that when troubling times abound, much like today, the Lord is the one to turn to and draw strength from knowing that He is always at work saving those who belong to Him. Those who are in the midst of the Earth!

Memory Verse:

God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.
Psalm 74:12

Arise, O God, Defend Your Cause

A Maskil of Asaph.

[1] O God, why do you cast us off forever?
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

1. Why is this Happening to Us?

- [2] Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,
which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!
Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.
- [3] Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!
- [4] Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place;
they set up their own signs for signs.
- [5] They were like those who swing axes
in a forest of trees.
- [6] And all its carved wood

- they broke down with hatchets and hammers.
[7] They set your sanctuary on fire;
they profaned the dwelling place of your name,
bringing it down to the ground.
[8] They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them";
they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

2. Why is this Happening Here?

- [9] We do not see our signs;
there is no longer any prophet,
and there is none among us who knows how long.
[10] How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?
Is the enemy to revile your name forever?
[11] Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?
Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!

3. Why is this Happening Now?

4. Why is the Enemy Winning?

- [12] Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the midst of the earth.
[13] You divided the sea by your might;
you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
[14] You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
[15] You split open springs and brooks;
you dried up ever-flowing streams.
[16] Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.
[17] You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;
you have made summer and winter.

[18] Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs,
and a foolish people reviles your name.
[19] Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts;
do not forget the life of your poor forever.

[20] Have regard for the covenant,
for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.
[21] Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame;
let the poor and needy praise your name.

[22] Arise, O God, defend your cause;
remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!
[23] Do not forget the clamor of your foes,
the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!

4. Yet God is Working Salvation for Those Saved and Those Not Yet Saved!

Jesus is the final Temple. There is not now nor ever will be, the need for another. **John 2:19-22**

In the destruction of Jesus, your own destruction is assured to be behind you instead of in front of you. When you look at the cross, you see your punishment being carried out, so that before you is only peace with God and an eternity with him. ³

¹ Dane Ortlund, *In the Lord I Take Refuge*, p. 206.

² *The Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, The Psalms, The Book of Psalms Book Vol. II*, Spence and Exell, p. 81.

³ Ortlund, p. 207.

Life Application Questions

1. Do you ever think you are the only one suffering? Is that accurate? Why or why not?
2. When is a right and proper time to question God? Is there a right time? Proper way?
3. Can God handle your questions? How did questioning God work out for Job? (Job 38:1 - 40:2)
4. What might we do rather than questioning God? How should we pray? What should our attitude be? How did the tone change in verses 12 - 17?
5. Verses 1 - 11 focus attention on how God's people are being forgotten as they are attacked by an enemy and that God is being attacked by extension (Your Congregation, Your Heritage, Your Meeting Place, Your Name). How does that focus shift in verse 12? How is this position supported in verses 13 - 17?
6. What appeals are made in verses 18, 20 & 22? (Remember Your Name, Regard Your Covenant, Defend Your Cause)
7. What requests are made in verses 19, 21 & 23?
8. PRAY: Ask the Lord to defend His Congregation, His Heritage, His Meeting Place and His Name among His People, in this Nation, at this time. Ask the Lord to demonstrate that He is working salvation in the midst of the earth among us, right here, right now and that the enemy would not have a stronghold on our city or our nation!