

Psalm 79

Lament and Plea Concerning the Destruction of Jerusalem

A Psalm of Asaph.¹

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A1 A LAMENT OVER THE NATIONS' DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF YAHWEH'S ANGER 79:1-5

B1 A Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem 79:1-4

C1 The Nations' Destruction of Jerusalem 79:1

D1 Their invasion of Elohim's inheritance: {1} O God, the nations
have invaded Your inheritance;

D2 Their defilement of His temple: They have defiled Your holy
temple;

D3 Their ruin of Jerusalem: They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

C2 The Nations' Slaughter of Jerusalemites 79:2-3

D1 Their bodies serve as carrion 79:2

E1 For the birds of the heavens: {2} They have given the dead
bodies of Your servants for food to the birds of the
heavens,

E2 For the beasts of the earth: The flesh of Your godly ones to
the beasts of the earth.

D2 Their slaughter was complete 79:3

E1 Blood poured out like water: {3} They have poured out
their blood like water round about Jerusalem;

E2 Insufficient survivors left to bury the dead: And there was
no one to bury them.

C3 The Humiliation of Israelis in the Eyes of Surrounding Nations 79:4

D1 A reproach: {4} We have become a reproach to our neighbors,

D2 A scoffing and derision: A scoffing and derision to those around
us.

¹ Psalm 79 Superscription - Asaph: The references to the destruction of the temple in this psalm, as in Psalm 74, seem to preclude the Asaph of David's day as being the author. So the Asaph in question is evidently an Exilic author of the same name writing after 586 BC, or, as Allen P. Ross (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary [TBKC]*) argues in Psalm 74, an Exilic member of the Asaph Music Guild. Psalm 79 and 74 are sister psalms.

B2 A Plea Concerning the Unabated Angry Jealousy of Yahweh 79:5

- C1 Despair Because of Yahweh's Time: {5} How long, O LORD?
- C2 Despair Because of Yahweh's Anger: Will You be angry forever?
- C3 Despair Because of Yahweh's Jealousy: Will Your jealousy burn like fire?

A2 A PLEA FOR VENGEANCE AND DELIVERANCE 79:6-12

B1 A First Call for Vengeance 79:6-7

- C1 The Call 79:6
 - D1 Upon nations which do not know Yahweh: {6} Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You,²
 - D2 Upon kingdoms which do not pray to Yahweh: And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.
- C2 The Justification 79:7
 - D1 {7} For they have devoured Jacob
 - D2 And laid waste his habitation.

B2 A Plea for Compassionate Forgiveness and Deliverance 79:8-9

- C1 For Forgiveness: {8} Do not remember the iniquities of *our* forefathers against us;
- C2 For Compassionate Aid: Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us,
- C3 In View of Our Plight: For we are brought very low. 79:8
- C4 For Saving Help to Honor Your Name: {9} Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name;
- C5 For Deliverance and Forgiveness to Honor Your Name: And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake. 79:9

² 79:6 - Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You: This prayer is justified in the following verse (7): "For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation." This destruction occurred in 586 B.C. Ultimately Babylon was destroyed by the conquering Medes and Persians in 539 B.C. Those who destroy Jerusalem and the Temple are the enemies of God, and themselves will eventually reap destruction. That is why it is so dangerous for American presidents, such as George W. Bush and Barack Obama, to call for the bifurcation of Israel and of Jerusalem. The ultimate destiny of the enemies of God and Israel, apart from the grace of God through Jesus, is eternal torment in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone (Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15).

B3 A Second Call for Vengeance 79:10

C1 {10} Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

C2 Let there be known among the nations in our sight, Vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.

B4 A Plea for Powerful Preservation 79:11

C1 {11} Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You;

C2 According to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are doomed to die.

B5 A Third Call for Vengeance 79:12

C1 {12} And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom

C2 The reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.³

A3 VOW OF PRAISE 79:13

B1 Eternal Thanksgiving: {13} So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture Will give thanks to You forever;

B2 Eternal Praise: To all generations we will tell of Your praise.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 79

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³ 79:12 - reproached You, O Lord: To reproach Israel is to reproach God.