

## Psalm 74 A Maskil of Asaph (Maskil - a call to reflect on the message and thereby gain wisdom<sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, it seems like You have cast us off forever. Why have You done this? Why are You so angry with Your chosen people? <sup>2</sup> Remember that Israel is Your chosen people, remember that You purchased them eons ago, and remember that You redeemed them to be the special people of Your inheritance. Also, remember Jerusalem and the temple where You used to abide. <sup>3</sup> The enemy has destroyed the temple and everything in it. Turn Your attention to the city, and see the disaster that has taken place. <sup>4</sup> Those who resist You and fight against Your people stand where our synagogues used to be and shout cries of victory<sup>2</sup>. Now they have set up their own meeting places where ours used to be. <sup>5</sup> Our land looks as devastated as a forest where some giant had been turned loose with an axe. <sup>6</sup> Our enemies used hatchets and hammers to destroy all of the carved works, and <sup>7</sup> then they burned Your sanctuary to the ground. They did everything they could to defile Your dwelling place and do away with Your name. <sup>d</sup> These wicked people said among themselves, "Let's do whatever it takes to bring these Jews into submission and subjection"<sup>3</sup>. In order to accomplish the task they burned all of our synagogues to the ground. They were the places where we used to meet to worship You. <sup>9</sup> We don't see any signs of people worshipping You collectively, we don't have a prophet to tell us Your words, and no one among our people knows how long these conditions will persist. <sup>10</sup> LORD, how long will You allow our enemies to scoff at us and blaspheme Your holy name? Will You let it go on forever? <sup>11</sup> Why do You abstain from helping us? Rightfully You should take Your hands out of Your pockets and destroy these wicked people.

<sup>12</sup> Regardless of how bad things are right now, You are my God, and I trust in You. After all, You are the God who does awesome deeds of deliverance all over the world. <sup>13</sup> By Your power You divided the Red Sea, You crushed the heads of sea monsters, and <sup>14</sup> You crushed the old dragon called Leviathan then gave his corpse to land animals for food. <sup>15</sup> You broke the ground open to provide springs and brooks while at other times You dried up mighty rivers. <sup>16</sup> The day and the night belong to You, and You control them. In fact, You made the sun to provide light on the earth. <sup>17</sup> You fixed the boundaries of the seas, and You designed the laws of nature so that we have summer and winter. You're such a wonderful and powerful God.

<sup>18</sup> LORD, this is all about You. Remember how Your enemies have nothing but contempt for You, and they blaspheme Your name every chance they get. <sup>19</sup> Please don't deliver Your precious people to men like them who are nothing more than wild beasts, and don't forget Your afflicted people forever. <sup>20</sup> Consider the promises You made when You made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Please come to our rescue because the land is filled with violence and cruelty. <sup>21</sup> Don't let the oppressed people of Israel turn back in shame. Instead, rescue us, and let the poor and needy people being held captive praise and thank Your name. <sup>22</sup> Rise up, O God, and defend Yourself by stating Your own case, and do it for the sake of Your holy name. Remember how foolish men scoff at You all day long, <sup>23</sup> how Your enemies raise their voices in protest, and how they rise up against You continually. LORD, all these things I have asked are solely up to You.

<sup>1</sup> Meaning of "Maskil", *Psalms*, © BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, USA, pg. 285

<sup>2</sup> Peter A, Steveson, *Ibid.*, pg. 286

<sup>3</sup> Definition of "Subdue", [www.dictionary.com/browse/subdue](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/subdue)