

Psalm 79 A Sad Psalm of Asaph

¹ O God, Jerusalem is Your inheritance, but ungodly nations have invaded her. They have defiled and ransacked Your temple and have completely destroyed Jerusalem. ² They have left the dead bodies of Your people strewn on the ground throughout the city for animals and birds to feed upon for days. ³ The people of these nations have shed blood like a waterfall, and there is no one left to bury the dead. ⁴ They mock the Jews and scoff at them, and they think we are worthless and don't deserve to live.

⁵ Dear LORD, it is obvious that You are punishing us for our sin as a nation, but how long will You be angry with us? Will You be mad at us forever? Will Your jealousy completely destroy us? ⁶ Instead of punishing us, why don't You pour out Your wrath upon the nations that neither know You nor call upon Your name? ⁷ They certainly deserve to be punished because they have devoured the people of Israel and leveled Jerusalem to where there is nothing left.

⁸ Please don't hold the sins of our fathers against the people of this generation. Instead, please come and bestow Your tender mercy upon us because we are helpless to do anything for ourselves. ⁹ Oh please, please help us. You are the God of our salvation. Save us, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your reputation. It would certainly bring glory to Your name. ¹⁰ After all, why should ungodly nations say, "Where is this God of Israel? He was powerless to save Israel from us." Pour out Your vengeance upon these nations and shed their blood in exchange for our blood so that every nation will clearly see that You are an awesome and powerful God. ¹¹ Please hear the groaning of the prisoners, and by Your great power preserve those who are doomed to die. ¹² LORD, repay our enemy seven times as much in reproach and loss as they have done to You by destroying Israel. ¹³ If You will do this to them and rescue us, we will be the sheep You lead to pasture, and we will give thanks to You forever. We will certainly tell all generations that come after us about Your love and compassion.