

“REMEMBER, O LORD; DO NOT FORGET”

PSALM 74—Part 2

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INTRODUCTION

What a sad state of affairs for God’s people:

- 1) The enemy has invaded their land—devastating and destroying at will.
 - a) They have even devastated and burned the temple itself, treating it with no more respect than a lumberman cutting down trees in the forest (vv. 3-8).
 - b) It has been a long time, and there is no sign of relief; the ruin seems perpetual—forever (vv. 1, 3, 10).
 - c) They boast of their deeds (8), they “revile”, “spurn” God’s name (10, 18) and reproach God Himself (22).
 - d) They roar like a lion in God’s meeting place (4), their uproar rise against God and ascends continually before Him (23), they have put up their standards as signs even in the holy place (4).
 - e) The dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence (20b)
- 2) But, what is worse, it seems that we are rejected by God Himself (v. 1)
 - a) We no longer have our signs—our insignia as evidence of God’s holiness and working such as the censers beaten and put on the altar and the rod of Aaron that budded (Num. 16, 17), nor do we have our miraculous signs as evidence that God is still with us or for us (9a)
 - b) We have no more prophets (9b)
 - c) We have no one to tell us “how long” (9c)
 - d) God’s hand has been withdrawn (11), the hand that had worked so powerfully in the past, delivering us from Egypt, bringing us through the wilderness, and across the Jordan into the Promised Land (vv. 12-15).
 - e) The God of Creation and Providential control of the universe—day and night, moon and sun, earth’s boundaries, summer and winter (16-17) seems to have no control over what is happening to us.

But, the psalmist remembers that he and his people are:

- 1) “The sheep of God’s pasture” (1)
- 2) “The purchased and redeemed” of the Lord (2)
- 3) “The tribe of God’s inheritance” (2)
- 4) Zion is the place God has chosen for his dwelling (2). It is the place of his “holy place/sanctuary” (3, 7), the “meeting place” not only of God’s people together, but of the people with their God (4). The “meeting places” are gone (8).

God, how can this be? I call you to remembrance:

- We are your congregation (2)
- We are your “turtle dove” being savaged by a wild beast (19)
- Do not forget your “humble/afflicted ones” (19).
- Don’t let your oppressed return dishonored (21)
- Remember that it is “your name” being reviled and spurned (18). You are the one reproached (22).
- Don’t forget the “voice of your enemies and their uproar; they rise up against the holy God; their insults ascend up before God continually—crying out for vengeance like Sodom and Gomorrah, like the blood of Abel.

GOD, CONSIDER THE COVENANT (20)

Your people, the “afflicted and needy”, need to praise you for your deliverance (21)

God, it is time for you to “arise,” and to “plead your case”—plead as a lawyer your lawsuit against sin and wickedness. Put a stop to it (22).

GOD WILL DO SO IN HIS TIME—See Rev.6:9-11—“How long, O Lord, holy and true, will you refrain from judging and avenging our blood on earth-dwellers?” SEE REV. 19:11-21