

Psalm 74

*A song
of Asaph
to sing and strum*

Why do You keep rejecting us, O God?
Your anger smoulders against Your own sheep!
Remember those whom You acquired of old,
Redeeming them to be Your special tribe!

You chose Mount Zion as Your dwelling place:
Now turn Your footsteps to this ruined place!
The enemy has ruined ev'rything
Within Your chosen sanctuary, LORD!

Your foes have roared into Your meeting place
And set their standards for signs in this place:
They are like men with axes among trees:
They hacked away the carved work in Your house!

And they have burned Your temple to the ground.
Defiling the place where Your name once dwelt!
“Let us destroy them all!” is what they said
They burned up ev'ry meeting place of God!

We do not see signs of Your favour, God.
There are no longer prophets in the land:
No one can tell us how long this will last:
The enemy prevails on ev'ry hand!

How long, O God, will Your foes scoff at us?
And will Your foes forever scorn Your name?
Why do You draw back Your right hand and hide
It in Your bosom, and not strike Your foes?

But the LORD God is my King from of old:
He works salvation in the midst of earth!
You scared the ocean by Your mighty pow'r:
You broke the heads of the sea monsters there!

You smashed the heads of the Leviathan
And let the desert creatures feed on him:
You opened springs and torrents in the land:
And flowing streams dried up at Your command!

Yours is the day, and the night too is Yours:
You made the light, and set in place the sun:
You made the limits of the earth below:
You made the summer and the winter too!

An enemy has taunted You, O God,
A foolish race has poured scorn on Your name!
Don't let Your dove be killed by a wild beast:
Do not forget Your own afflicted ones!

Remember now the covenant You made,
For all the hiding places now are full,
And they are places where injustice reigns
And violence prevails on ev'ry hand!

Let not th'oppressed be turned away deceived,
But let the poor and needy praise Your name:
Arise, O God, defend Your cause today!
Remember all the taunts of foolish men!

All the day long these men are taunting You:
Do not forget the clamour of Your foes:
The din they make increases day by day:
Deal with Your enemies, O God, we pray!

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