

Psalm 74:1-23 **Why has Elohiym cast us off forever? The Enemy has damaged the Sanctuary**
Remembering the great works of Elohiym – Prayer for Elohiym to destroy the enemy

A Plea for Relief from Oppressors

A Contemplation* of Asaph.

¹O Elohiym (God), why have You cast *us* off forever? *Why* does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

²Remember Your congregation, *which* You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, *which* You have redeemed – This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.

³Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.

⁴Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They set up their banners *for signs*.

⁵They seem like men who lift up Axes among the thick trees.

⁶And now they break down its carved work, all at once, With axes and hammers.

⁷They have set fire to Your sanctuary; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name to the ground.

⁸They said in their hearts, "Let us destroy them altogether." They have burned up all the meeting places of El (God) in the land.

⁹We do not see our signs; *There is* no longer any prophet; Nor *is there* any among us who knows how long.

¹⁰O Elohiym (God), how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?

¹¹Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? *Take it* out of Your bosom and destroy *them*.

¹²For Elohiym (God) *is* my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.

¹³You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.

¹⁴You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, *And* gave him *as* food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

¹⁵You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers.

¹⁶The day *is* Yours, the night also *is* Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

¹⁷You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

¹⁸Remember this, *that* the enemy has reproached, O Yahweh (LORD), And *that* a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.

¹⁹Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget

the life of Your poor forever.

²⁰ Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

²¹ Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your name.

²² Arise, O Elohiym (God), plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily.

²³ Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ O Elohiym (God), why have You cast *us* off forever? *Why* does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
Remember Your congregation, *which* You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, *which* You have redeemed – This Mount Zion where You have dwelt. [Psalm 74:1-2]
- ✧ Prayer that Elohiym consider the plight of the people He had purchased of old, those He had redeemed and Mount Zion where He has dwelt.
- ✧ Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.
Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They set up their banners *for* signs.
They seem like men who lift up Axes among the thick trees.
And now they break down its carved work, all at once, With axes and hammers.
They have set fire to Your sanctuary; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name to the ground.
They said in their hearts, "Let us destroy them altogether." They have burned up all the meeting places of El (God) in the land. [Psalm 74:3-8]
- ✧ Asaph described the damage to the Sanctuary and how the enemy has defiled the place where Elohiym had caused His name to dwell.
- ✧ We do not see our signs; *There is* no longer any prophet; Nor *is there* any among us who knows how long.
O Elohiym (God), how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?
Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? *Take it* out of Your bosom and destroy *them*. [Psalm 74:9-11]
- ✧ Asaph bemoaned the lack of prophets and anyone who knows how long the wrath of Elohiym will continue.
- ✧ He asked how long will the enemy reproach and blaspheme the Name of Elohiym.
- ✧ He prayed that Elohiym would take action and destroy the enemy.
- ✧ For Elohiym (God) *is* my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.
You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.

You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, *And* gave him *as* food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. [Psalm 74:12-15]

✧ Asaph described his longstanding faith in Elohiym.

✧ He described the mighty things Elohiym has done in the past.

☆ The day *is* Yours, the night also *is* Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter. [Psalm 74:16-17]

✧ Asaph acknowledged that Elohiym still controls the functions of the earth and the sky, the light of the sun, the borders of the earth, and the seasons.

☆ Remember this, *that* the enemy has reproached, O Yahweh (LORD), *And that* a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.

Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor forever.

Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your name. [Psalm 74:18-21]

✧ Asaph called on Elohiym to remember how the enemy and foolish people have reproached and blasphemed the Name of Yahweh.

✧ He prayed that Elohiym deliver His people from the enemy so the poor and needy may praise His Name and the oppressed not be ashamed.

☆ Arise, O Elohiym (God), plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily.

Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually. [Psalm 74:22-23]

✧ Asaph prayed that Elohiym would arise and plead His own cause, remembering the continuing increase of reproaches and tumult of the enemies rising up against Him.