**Psalm 77-79**

Psalm 77

**For the director of music. For Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A psalm.**

**1**I cried out to God for help;
    I cried out to God to hear me.
**2**When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
    at night I stretched out untiring hands,
    and I would not be comforted.

**3**I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
    I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
**4**You kept my eyes from closing;
    I was too troubled to speak.
**5**I thought about the former days,
    the years of long ago;
**6**I remembered my songs in the night.
    My heart meditated and my spirit asked:

**7**“Will the Lord reject forever?
    Will he never show his favor again?
**8**Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
    Has his promise failed for all time?
**9**Has God forgotten to be merciful?
    Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”

**10**Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:
    the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
**11**I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
    yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
**12**I will consider all your works
    and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

**13**Your ways, God, are holy.
    What god is as great as our God?
**14**You are the God who performs miracles;
    you display your power among the peoples.
**15**With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
    the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**16**The waters saw you, God,
    the waters saw you and writhed;
    the very depths were convulsed.
**17**The clouds poured down water,
    the heavens resounded with thunder;
    your arrows flashed back and forth.
**18**Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
    your lightning lit up the world;
    the earth trembled and quaked.
**19**Your path led through the sea,
    your way through the mighty waters,
    though your footprints were not seen.

**20**You led your people like a flock
    by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 78

**A *maskil*[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+77-79&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15115c)**] of Asaph.**

**1**My people, hear my teaching;
    listen to the words of my mouth.
**2**I will open my mouth with a parable;
    I will utter hidden things, things from of old -
**3**things we have heard and known,
    things our ancestors have told us.
**4**We will not hide them from their descendants;
    we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
    his power, and the wonders he has done.
**5**He decreed statutes for Jacob
    and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
    to teach their children,
**6**so the next generation would know them,
    even the children yet to be born,
    and they in turn would tell their children.
**7**Then they would put their trust in God
    and would not forget his deeds
    but would keep his commands.
**8**They would not be like their ancestors -
    a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
    whose spirits were not faithful to him.

**9**The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
    turned back on the day of battle;
**10**they did not keep God’s covenant
    and refused to live by his law.
**11**They forgot what he had done,
    the wonders he had shown them.
**12**He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors
    in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
**13**He divided the sea and led them through;
    he made the water stand up like a wall.
**14**He guided them with the cloud by day
    and with light from the fire all night.
**15**He split the rocks in the wilderness
    and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
**16**he brought streams out of a rocky crag
    and made water flow down like rivers.

**17**But they continued to sin against him,
    rebelling in the wilderness against the Most High.
**18**They willfully put God to the test
    by demanding the food they craved.
**19**They spoke against God;
    they said, “Can God really
    spread a table in the wilderness?
**20**True, he struck the rock,
    and water gushed out,
    streams flowed abundantly,
but can he also give us bread?
    Can he supply meat for his people?”
**21**When the Lord heard them, he was furious;
    his fire broke out against Jacob,
    and his wrath rose against Israel,
**22**for they did not believe in God
    or trust in his deliverance.
**23**Yet he gave a command to the skies above
    and opened the doors of the heavens;
**24**he rained down manna for the people to eat,
    he gave them the grain of heaven.
**25**Human beings ate the bread of angels;
    he sent them all the food they could eat.
**26**He let loose the east wind from the heavens
    and by his power made the south wind blow.
**27**He rained meat down on them like dust,
    birds like sand on the seashore.
**28**He made them come down inside their camp,
    all around their tents.
**29**They ate till they were gorged -
    he had given them what they craved.
**30**But before they turned from what they craved,
    even while the food was still in their mouths,
**31**God’s anger rose against them;
    he put to death the sturdiest among them,
    cutting down the young men of Israel.

**32**In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
    in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.
**33**So he ended their days in futility
    and their years in terror.
**34**Whenever God slew them, they would seek him;
    they eagerly turned to him again.
**35**They remembered that God was their Rock,
    that God Most High was their Redeemer.
**36**But then they would flatter him with their mouths,
    lying to him with their tongues;
**37**their hearts were not loyal to him,
    they were not faithful to his covenant.
**38**Yet he was merciful;
    he forgave their iniquities
    and did not destroy them.
Time after time he restrained his anger
    and did not stir up his full wrath.
**39**He remembered that they were but flesh,
    a passing breeze that does not return.

**40**How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
    and grieved him in the wasteland!
**41**Again and again they put God to the test;
    they vexed the Holy One of Israel.
**42**They did not remember his power -
    the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,
**43**the day he displayed his signs in Egypt,
    his wonders in the region of Zoan.
**44**He turned their river into blood;
    they could not drink from their streams.
**45**He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
    and frogs that devastated them.
**46**He gave their crops to the grasshopper,
    their produce to the locust.
**47**He destroyed their vines with hail
    and their sycamore-figs with sleet.
**48**He gave over their cattle to the hail,
    their livestock to bolts of lightning.
**49**He unleashed against them his hot anger,
    his wrath, indignation and hostility -
    a band of destroying angels.
**50**He prepared a path for his anger;
    he did not spare them from death
    but gave them over to the plague.
**51**He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,
    the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.
**52**But he brought his people out like a flock;
    he led them like sheep through the wilderness.
**53**He guided them safely, so they were unafraid;
    but the sea engulfed their enemies.
**54**And so he brought them to the border of his holy land,
    to the hill country his right hand had taken.
**55**He drove out nations before them
    and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance;
    he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.

**56**But they put God to the test
    and rebelled against the Most High;
    they did not keep his statutes.
**57**Like their ancestors they were disloyal and faithless,
    as unreliable as a faulty bow.
**58**They angered him with their high places;
    they aroused his jealousy with their idols.
**59**When God heard them, he was furious;
    he rejected Israel completely.
**60**He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,
    the tent he had set up among humans.
**61**He sent the ark of his might into captivity,
    his splendor into the hands of the enemy.
**62**He gave his people over to the sword;
    he was furious with his inheritance.
**63**Fire consumed their young men,
    and their young women had no wedding songs;
**64**their priests were put to the sword,
    and their widows could not weep.

**65**Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
    as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.
**66**He beat back his enemies;
    he put them to everlasting shame.
**67**Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,
    he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
**68**but he chose the tribe of Judah,
    Mount Zion, which he loved.
**69**He built his sanctuary like the heights,
    like the earth that he established forever.
**70**He chose David his servant
    and took him from the sheep pens;
**71**from tending the sheep he brought him
    to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,
    of Israel his inheritance.
**72**And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;
    with skillful hands he led them.

Psalm 79

**A psalm of Asaph.**

**1**O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
    they have defiled your holy temple,
    they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
**2**They have left the dead bodies of your servants
    as food for the birds of the sky,
    the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.
**3**They have poured out blood like water
    all around Jerusalem,
    and there is no one to bury the dead.
**4**We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
    of scorn and derision to those around us.

**5**How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever?
    How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
**6**Pour out your wrath on the nations
    that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
    that do not call on your name;
**7**for they have devoured Jacob
    and devastated his homeland.

**8**Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
    may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
    for we are in desperate need.
**9**Help us, God our Savior,
    for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
    for your name’s sake.
**10**Why should the nations say,
    “Where is their God?”

Before our eyes, make known among the nations
    that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants.
**11**May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
    with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.
**12**Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times
    the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.
**13**Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
    will praise you forever;
from generation to generation
    we will proclaim your praise.