**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.