

# Psalm 74

**This Psalm is one of several lamentations which found utterance in the destruction of Jerusalem and the beginning of the exile in Babylon.**

**With the destruction of the Temple, the centre of religious life the inference was that God had forsaken them.**

Where was God's faithfulness to the covenant? As time passed it lent credence to the thought of divine rejection, [Psalms 74:1-10, 19, 22-23].

This disappointment is mingled with bewilderment as the Psalmist voices the cry of the people in an insistent "why?" to God, [Psalms 74:1, 11].

**Inserted into the midst of this challenging enquiry, 'why?' is inserted a less emotional statement of their distress.**

**Psalms 74:3-9** [New King James] *"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 God in the land. We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet; nor is there any among us who knows how long."*

**The result of all this was that not a vestige or outward sign of their religious life was left and there was not any prophetic hint as to how long this would continue.**

God's anger against Israel had grown hot during the many years of their sin and idolatry. His patience had endured for generations, but at last it was set aside for judgement.

**We can apply the long patience of the Creator God to the recent human history, where He has gradually been rejected by humanity more as each generation came and passed.**

**Today, because of the deception of Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9] very few people believe in a Creator God who has an influence to their day-to-day life.**

[Please download the article 'A Life That Has Left God Out Of The Reckoning' listed under main title 'Human Nature'.]

**The main tool that Satan has used is evolution that impregnates every part of the education of our children as well as the direction of society as a whole.**

**All see this theory as proof that there is no need for a Creator God.**

**Even some religious leaders doubt the existence of a Creator God and the truth of His Word, the Christian Bible.**

On a personal level, when we fall into sin, quickly seek God's forgiveness, His mercy may then come quickly and His anger may leave quickly.

If we persist sinning, as did Israel, do not be surprised when His patience runs out, [Jeremiah 15:6].

If we feel that God appears slow to responding to our need, never give up on Him.

When God seems to be slow to respond, follow the example given us in this Psalm, review the great acts of God throughout the history of humanity, [**Psalms 74:12-17**].

As God's covenant people the Psalmist considers that the enemy was reproaching Him, [**Psalms 74:18-20**].

The Psalmist acknowledges that all have acted foolishly, [**verse 1**] and seeks to humble themselves before the Creator God [**verse 19**] and remembers how God has helped the poor and needy in the past [**verse 19**] and asks God to remember the covenant He made with Abraham and Israel in the past, [**verse 20**] and to observe all the evil in the world that is bringing oppression to His covenant people.

**Asking God to look on these evil people as His adversaries and enemies.**

Any true Christian who has accepted the New Covenant brought by Jesus Christ and ratified by His blood [**Luke 22:20**] then out of pure gratitude sacrificed their life to the Creator God.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

**This includes every aspect of our lives, [Luke 14:26-27, 33].**

**Such a person can pray to the Creator God in the same way as this Psalm tells us to.**