

Communal Lament

Psalms of Asaph · Book III

"A contemplation by Asaph."

PICTURE WORD

Ruins

IN ONE SENTENCE

*he enemy has burned God's sanctuary, so the people ask how long and plead that he rise and defend his cause.***Remember it:** Seventy-four: amid the ruins, ask how long, but God is King of old.

MEMORY VERSE

Arise, God! Plead your own cause.
Remember how the foolish man mocks you
all day.

Psalm 74:22 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

מִקְדָּשְׁךָ

"your sanctuary" · verse 7

In the Psalms: five times, in 5 psalms

מִקְדָּשׁ, "sanctuary," comes from the root "holy," meaning set apart for God. It is the holy place where God put his name. The tragedy is not only broken carvings but that "the dwelling place of your Name" was profaned. So the people ask God to defend his own cause.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1-3 Why have you rejected us? Remember your people and Zion.**4-11** Enemies smashed and burned the sanctuary; how long, God?**12-17** Yet God is King of old, Lord of sea and seasons.**18-23** Remember the mockers; arise and plead your own cause.

MY NOTES

**Listen.** Hear Psalm 74 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/74.**Cantillated.** Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress

Zion & the House of God

Israel's Story

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The enemy has _____ God's sanctuary, so the people ask how _____ and plead that he rise and _____ his cause.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. The enemies behaved like men wielding what?

(A) Swords

(B) Torches

(C) Axes

(D) Chariots

2. What is missing among the people?

(A) Any prophet

(B) Any bread

(C) Any king

(D) Any soldiers

3. Whose heads did God break in pieces?

(A) The Philistines'

(B) Leviathan's

(C) Pharaoh's

(D) Goliath's

TALK IT OVER

1. What has the enemy done to God's sanctuary, according to verses 3 to 8?

2. Why do the people remind God of his power over sea, day, and night in the middle of their grief?

3. How can remembering God's past works help you when your world looks like ruins?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 74 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I can say verse 22 by heart

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: burned · long · long · defend · Check yourself: 1. C (v. 5) · 2. A (v. 9) · 3. B (v. 14)