

Communal Lament

Psalms of Asaph · Book III

"A Psalm by Asaph."

PICTURE WORD

Flock

IN ONE SENTENCE



he nations have defiled God's temple, so his people, the flock of his pasture, plead for atonement and for his glory.

Remember it: Seventy-nine: the flock in the ruins asks God to cover their sin.

MEMORY VERSE

Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

Psalm 79:9 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

וְכִפֵּר

"atone" · verse 9

In the Psalms: three times, in 3 psalms

כִּפֵּר is the verb behind the Day of Atonement. It means to cover over or wipe clean, so that sin no longer stands between God and his people. Here no sacrifice can be offered in the ruined temple, so the people ask God himself to atone "for your name's sake."

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

- 1–4** The nations have defiled the temple and slaughtered God's servants.
- 5–7** How long, LORD? Pour your anger on the nations instead.
- 8–12** Forgive our sins and act for the glory of your name.
- 13** Your flock will thank you forever, to every generation.

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear Psalm 79 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/79.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress

Forgiveness & Repentance

Justice on the Wicked

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The nations have defiled God's _____, so his people, the _____ of his pasture, plead for _____ and for his glory.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What have the nations done to Jerusalem?

- ☐ (A) Rebuilt its walls
☐ (C) Made it their capital

- ☐ (B) Laid it in heaps
☐ (D) Paid it tribute

2. What question do the nations ask?

- ☐ (A) Where is their God?
☐ (C) Why do they sing?

- ☐ (B) Who is their king?
☐ (D) When will they leave?

3. What do God's people promise to do forever?

- ☐ (A) Rebuild the altar
☐ (C) Give thanks and praise

- ☐ (B) Fight the nations
☐ (D) Return to Egypt

TALK IT OVER

1. What losses does the psalm describe in verses 1-4, and how do the people respond to them?

2. Why do you think the people appeal to God's name and glory rather than to their own goodness?

3. When we suffer, how can we ask God both for help and for forgiveness at the same time?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 79 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
☐ I can say verse 9 by heart

- ☐ I can say what it teaches
☐ I know the picture word