

PRAYING PSALM 77

“I cried out to God with my voice...and He gave ear to me” (Psalm 77:1).

The historical context of this psalm is probably the Babylonian captivity. The psalmist felt rejected by God. Israel’s chastisement wasn’t permanent, but it felt like it. Chastisement corrected Judah’s idolatry. Some corrections are made by hard discipline. Psalm 77 shows how the psalmist dealt with spiritual depression which was the result of God’s severe chastisement on His people.

He cried out to God (1). He sought the Lord (2). He remembered God and was troubled (3). He complained, and his spirit was overwhelmed (3). He remembered when his nights were filled with joyful songs (6). He searched his heart and thought about the difference now (6). He asked himself questions (7-9). Each question reveals a loss of self-esteem from sinning and backsliding. He made some positive decisions (10-14): To remember when he served the Lord. To remember the works of the Lord. To remember the wonders of old. To meditate on God’s work. To talk about God’s deeds. To seek God’s way in worship. To notice God’s wonders. He drew some conclusions about serving the Lord in the future (15-19): His way was in the sea – It must be crossed by faith. His path was in great waters – If God leads us to it, He will lead us through it. God’s steps are not known – We must follow him. God leads us like a flock.

If you are experiencing the chastisement of God, this psalm is for you. It is a guide through spiritual depression. When you are chastened by God for willful sin, you must begin by acknowledging and confessing your transgression. Seek the Lord by searching your heart. Ask yourself questions. Make a decision to follow the Lord again. Remember God’s blessings, and meditate on His work in your life. Come to conclusions about serving the Lord. Step into the deep. Move into the unknown. Follow your Shepherd through the troubled waters to the other side of your crisis. Remember, He is the God of wonders.