

PRAYING PSALM 79

“How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire” (Psalm 79:5)?

This was likely written after the Babylonian captivity. 1. ISRAEL WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR THEIR SINS (1-5). Their Temple had been destroyed. Jerusalem was in heaps. Scavengers were feasting off the dead bodies. Shed blood was running like water throughout Jerusalem. 2. A PRAYER FOR GOD TO INTERVENE (6-13). Pour out Your wrath on our enemies. Do not remember our former iniquities. Help us. Forgive us for our sins. Let the nations know you will avenge our blood. Hear the groaning of the prisoners. Preserve those who are about to die. Return punishment sevenfold to our enemies.

This is an Old Testament prayer and would not meet the standards Jesus set in the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:43-45). Grace changes everything. It is proper to pray for justice. It is good to ask for forgiveness. As for vengeance, we must leave that to God in His chosen time. Remember that God is longsuffering and not willing that people should perish without a Savior. Give time for God to work in the lives of your enemies. As for the wicked, their judgment is coming, but not now. Concentrate on getting where you need to be as a Christian, and on a personal level begin to pray for your enemies. The interventions you pray for should always be in grace, not according to the Old Testament Law. Remember mercy when you pray. You are not the only one who needs another chance.