

**To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.**

<sup>1</sup> I cried out to God with my voice—  
To God with my voice;  
And He gave ear to me.

<sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;  
My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing;  
My soul refused to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup> I remembered God, and was troubled;  
I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids *open*;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup> I have considered the days of old,  
The years of ancient times.

<sup>6</sup> I call to remembrance my song in the night;  
I meditate within my heart,  
And my spirit makes diligent search.

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord cast off forever?  
And will He be favourable no more?

<sup>8</sup> Has His mercy ceased forever?  
Has *His* promise failed forevermore?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? *Selah*

<sup>10</sup> And I said, "This *is* my anguish;  
*But I will remember* the years of the right hand of the Most High."

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the works of the LORD;  
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will also meditate on all Your work,  
And talk of Your deeds.

<sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, *is* in the sanctuary;  
Who *is* so great a God as *our* God?

<sup>14</sup> You *are* the God who does wonders;  
You have declared Your strength among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> You have with *Your* arm redeemed Your people,  
The sons of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*

<sup>16</sup> The waters saw You, O God;  
The waters saw You, they were afraid;  
The depths also trembled.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water;  
The skies sent out a sound;  
Your arrows also flashed about.

<sup>18</sup> The voice of Your thunder *was* in the whirlwind;  
The lightnings lit up the world;  
The earth trembled and shook.

<sup>19</sup> Your way *was* in the sea,  
Your path in the great waters,  
And Your footsteps were not known.

<sup>20</sup> You led Your people like a flock  
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 77:1-20

### **NOTATIONS OF THE PSALMIST**

1. The chief Musician
2. Jeduthun was one of the chief musicians
3. He could be:
  - a) An archivist
  - b) A supervisor
  - c) A head of the musicians' guild

## **A CANDID CONFESSION OF HOW PRAYER WAS OFFERED**

*<sup>1</sup> I cried out to God with my voice—  
To God with my voice;  
And He gave ear to me.*

*<sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;  
My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing;  
My soul refused to be comforted.*

*<sup>3</sup> I remembered God, and was troubled;  
I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah*

*<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.*

*Psalm 77:1-4*

1. Prayer was offered
2. The LORD heard
3. The manner of prayer
  - a) The soul refused to be comforted
  - b) There was a complaining spirit
  - c) Asaph felt overwhelmed
  - d) This approach to prayer was not good or wise
  - e) This approach had been tried before (Psalm 73)
    - i) It had not been good
    - ii) It was tried again
    - iii) Similar results!
    - iv) Praying this way brought much discouragement

## **A DIFFERENT APPROACH TAKEN**

*<sup>5</sup> I have considered the days of old,  
The years of ancient times.*

*<sup>6</sup> I call to remembrance my song in the night;  
I meditate within my heart,  
And my spirit makes diligent search.*

*Psalm 77:5-6*

1. To consider the days of old (the past)
2. Recalling “my song in the night”
3. Meditation took place
4. The spirit searched (probed) diligently

#### **RHETORICAL QUESTIONS RAISED**

*<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord cast off forever?  
And will He be favourable no more?*

*<sup>8</sup> Has His mercy ceased forever?  
Has His promise failed forevermore?*

*<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah*

*Psalm 77:7-9*

1. Questions concerning
  - a) The Person of the LORD
  - b) His favour
  - c) His mercy
  - d) His promise
  - e) His graciousness
  - f) His tender mercies

2. Rhetorical questions

The answer is obvious!  
God has not forgotten all His covenant promises!

## **RETURNING TO THE LORD IN RENEWED FAITH**

*<sup>10</sup> And I said, "This is my anguish;  
But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."*

*<sup>11</sup> I will remember the works of the LORD;  
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.*

*<sup>12</sup> I will also meditate on all Your work,  
And talk of Your deeds.*

*<sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary;  
Who is so great a God as our God?*

*Psalm 77:10-13*

1. Key phrase  
"I will remember"

2. Things to remember

- a) The years of the right hand of the Most High
- b) The works of the LORD
- c) The wonders of old

3. Appropriate action

- a) To meditate on all of God's work
- b) To talk of God's deeds
- c) To think of God's sanctuary
- d) To dwell on the greatness of the LORD

## **THE GLORIOUS HISTORY OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL**

*<sup>14</sup> You are the God who does wonders;  
You have declared Your strength among the peoples.*

*<sup>15</sup> You have with Your arm redeemed Your people,  
The sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah*

*16 The waters saw You, O God;  
The waters saw You, they were afraid;  
The depths also trembled.*

*17 The clouds poured out water;  
The skies sent out a sound;  
Your arrows also flashed about.*

*18 The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
The lightnings lit up the world;  
The earth trembled and shook.*

*19 Your way was in the sea,  
Your path in the great waters,  
And Your footsteps were not known.*

*20 You led Your people like a flock  
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

*Psalm 77:14-20*

1. God's strength  
This was evidenced

2. God's redemption of Israel from Egypt  
This must not be forgotten!

- a) He parted the Red Sea
- b) He destroyed the army of Pharaoh in the Red Sea
- c) The LORD led His people by the hands of Moses and Aaron