

Singing in the King's Choir

Keswick 2024

3: The Absent King (Psalm 74)

Introduction

The Psalms as

- "Cardiphonia" – The expression of the heart
Love (18:1) and longing (63:1)

Grief and groans (13:1; 74:1)

- Cardiograph – The examination of the heart

Does my heart beat like this?

What gets my pulse racing, stomach churning, tears flowing?

"You God are awesome" (68:35)

- comfort and confusion

The story so far

Universal King (1-2)

Suffering King (Books I and II)

"How long Lord?" (13:1)

Book II ends looking forward with hope (72)

Book III (73-89)

The situation has got worse

"smells of exile" (Christopher Ash)

Begins with two laments: individual (73) and communal (74)

1. "Why Lord?" (v1-11) – *Bewilderment at God's inactivity*

"O God, why have you rejected us?" (v1)

- The city and temple in ruins (v3)
- A personal account of the invasion (v4-8; see 2 Kings 25)

"they defiled the dwelling place of your Name (v8)

- God does nothing (v9-11)

“How long will the enemy mock you, God?” (v10)

2. “But you Lord...!” (v12-17) – Reminder of God’s greatness

“But God is my king from long ago” (v12)

“It was you who split open the sea” (v13; Ex 14)

“It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan” (v4; Ez 32:2)

“It was you who opened up springs and streams... (v15a; Ex 17)

...you dried up the ever-flowing rivers” (v15b; Joshua 3)

“It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth” (v17; Gen 1)

3. “Rise up Lord!” (v18-23) – Prayer for God’s intervention

Defend your reputation

“the enemy has mocked you” (v18)

“fools mock you” (v22)

Save your people

“do not forget the lives of your afflicted people” (v19)

Remember your covenant (v2c)

“You promised!”

“may the poor and needy praise your name” (v21b)

Psalm 89

“I have sworn to David my servant, ‘I will establish your line for ever’” (89:3-4)

“my covenant with him will never fail” (89: 28)

“But... you have renounced the covenant with your servant” (89:38-39)

“How long, Lord?” (89:46)

Conclusion

“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days (Jn 2:19)

God raise Jesus from the darkness
and he will rescue us, his temple

“I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Mt 16:18)

“Praise be to the Lord for ever” (89:52)