

## Sermon Devotionals for Psalm 74

Background: The Psalms are a book of poetry. There are five 'books' or segments and each has a theme. Psalm 74 is contained in the third segment, chapters 73-89.

Monday: Some of the Psalms are related to specific points in Israel's history.

1. To set context, read Psalm 73:1-9. Mark references to the author (*I, my*) and to *the wicked/arrogant/they*.
2. What is Asaph's dilemma/problem/question? What effect did this question have on him (v.2)? This question is the theme for this segment of the Psalms.
3. Have you wondered the same thing as this psalmist? Have you come to any conclusions?

Tuesday:

1. Read Psalm 74:1-11, continuing to mark *adversary/enemies* and list all you find out about them.
2. Look up the following: 2Kings 25:8-10, Ezekiel 7:24-27, Lamentations 2:2.
3. Who is the enemy? What is happening to Israel/Jerusalem at the time of the writing of this Psalm?
4. As you look at circumstances in our country, our families, our world do you get the sense that evil is in control and winning? What do you say when others question the value of being a Christian in the face of suffering?

Wednesday:

1. Look up the following: Gen.15:18, 17:7, 2Samuel 7:11-17. What are these verses about?
2. Look up the following: 1Kings 11:36, 1Chron.6:6, Ps.48:1,135:21, and Isaiah 52:1. What do you learn from these passages?
3. Based on these passages, can you understand Asaph's question? Every Jew knew that God had made their people; that His city is Jerusalem, that His seat is the temple in Jerusalem. And now, it's under such judgment that it,(nation, city, and temple) is being destroyed.
4. What does this tell you about God, His Holiness, His righteousness? Is any nation or people exempt from accountability to the Lord God?

Thursday:

1. Read Psalm 74:12-17 and list or highlight all you learn about God.
2. Asaph didn't stay in his stumbling envy or bitterness. Where does his focus go?
3. What can you learn from his example here? Take time today (and every day) to rehearse the character and deeds of our King of Old.

Friday:

1. Read Psalm 74:18-23. Mark *foolish* the same as *enemy/adversary*. Mark *afflicted/oppressed/need*.
2. What do you learn about each of these two groups?
3. Highlight the requests that Asaph asks of God. What does he want God to do?
4. What is the focus of Asaph's prayer? Is it a 'please stop the pain' prayer? What can we learn about how to pray in times like this?
5. Continue on with Psalm 75 and note all that God does and all that 'we' do.
6. What needs to change in your attitude and behavior to endure faithfully and victoriously in difficult times?