

Scripture

Psalm 74 (NLT)

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, why have you rejected us so long?
Why is your anger so intense against the
sheep of your own pasture?
- 2 Remember that we are the people you chose
long ago, the tribe you redeemed as your
own special possession!
And remember Jerusalem, your home here
on earth.
- 3 Walk through the awful ruins of the city;
see how the enemy has destroyed your
sanctuary.

- 4 There your enemies shouted their victorious battle cries; there they set up their battle standards.
- 5 They swung their axes like woodcutters in a forest.
- 6 With axes and picks, they smashed the carved paneling.
- 7 They burned your sanctuary to the ground. They defiled the place that bears your name.
- 8 Then they thought, "Let's destroy everything!" So they burned down all the places where God was worshiped.

- 9 We no longer see your miraculous signs.
All the prophets are gone,
and no one can tell us when it will end.
- 10 How long, O God, will you allow our enemies
to insult you?
Will you let them dishonor your name
forever?
- 11 Why do you hold back your strong right hand?
Unleash your powerful fist and destroy
them.

- 12 You, O God, are my king from ages past,
bringing salvation to the earth.
- 13 You split the sea by your strength
and smashed the heads of the sea
monsters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan
and let the desert animals eat him.
- 15 You caused the springs and streams to gush
forth, and you dried up rivers that never
run dry.
- 16 Both day and night belong to you;
you made the starlight and the sun.
- 17 You set the boundaries of the earth,
and you made both summer and winter.

- 18 See how these enemies insult you, Lord.
A foolish nation has dishonored your name.
- 19 Don't let these wild beasts destroy your
turtledoves.
Don't forget your suffering people forever.
- 20 Remember your covenant promises,
for the land is full of darkness and violence!
- 21 Don't let the downtrodden be humiliated
again. Instead, let the poor and needy
praise your name.

- 22** Arise, O God, and defend your cause.
Remember how these fools insult you
all day long.
- 23** Don't overlook what your enemies have said
or their growing uproar.