

I. Address "God," Mentioning the Nations' Evil Acts 79:1-4

A psalm of Asaph. <sup>1</sup> O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple, they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble. <sup>2</sup> They have left the dead bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the sky, the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild. <sup>3</sup> They have poured out blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury the dead. <sup>4</sup> We are objects of contempt to our neighbors, of scorn and derision to those around us.

Even as the nations do their damage, inquire of God about it:

II. Address the "LORD," Asking the Right Questions 79:5

<sup>5</sup> How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire?

Once you have asked God your questions, move on to bringing God your supplications:

III. Address "God Our Savior," Bringing Kingdom-Worthy Supplications 79:6-12

<sup>6</sup> Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name; <sup>7</sup> for they have devoured Jacob and devastated his homeland. <sup>8</sup> Do not hold against us the sins of past generations; may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. <sup>9</sup> Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. <sup>10</sup> Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Before our eyes, make known among the nations that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants. <sup>11</sup> May the groans of the prisoners come before you; with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die. <sup>12</sup> Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.

Kingdom-worthy prayers are crucial for Kingdom-building, and so is praise:

IV. Address the Shepherd God, Proclaiming Praise from His Pasture 79:13

<sup>13</sup> Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; from generation to generation we will proclaim your praise.



The Big Idea: Pray with Asaph through the nations, with right questions, worthy supplications, and praises from the pasture.

The Big Question: If you struggle with how to pray, will you try it Asaph's way?

The Gospel: Instead of a "sinner's prayer," offer this prayer of Asaph to God—mixed with belief in God's grace, Jesus' substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection, your repentance and obedient faith—"Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake" (Psalm 79:9).

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