Psalm 74

God, why have You rejected us forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
2 Remember Your congregation, which You purchased of old, Which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance;

And this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt. 3 Step toward the irreparable ruins; The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary. 4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place;
They have set up their own signs as signs.

5 It seems like one bringing up His axe into a forest of trees. 6 And now they break down all its carved work with axe and hammers. 7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name.

8 They said in their heart, "Let's completely subdue them." They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land. 9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet, nor is there anyone among us who knows how long.

10 How long, God, will the enemy taunt You? Shall the enemy treat Your name disrespectfully forever? 11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Extend it from Your chest and destroy them!
12 Yet God is my King from long ago, who performs acts of salvation in the midst of the earth.

13 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.
14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
15 You broke open springs and torrents; You dried up ever-flowing streams.

16 Yours is the day; yours also is the night; You have prepared the light and the sun. 17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth; You have created summer and winter.
18 Remember this, Lord, that the enemy has taunted You, and a foolish people has treated Your name disrespectfully.

19 Do not give the soul of Your turtledove to the wild animal; Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.
20 Consider the covenant; For the dark places of the land are full of the places of violence.
21 May the oppressed person not return dishonoured; May the afflicted and the needy praise Your name.

22 Arise, God, and plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish person taunts You all day long.
23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries, The uproar of those who rise against You, which ascends continually.

Chapter Overview

This psalm is a lament from the time of the exile, when Israel had been destroyed as a nation and the temple reduced to ruins. He had found comfort in God's presence at the sanctuary but now that sanctuary had gone. He begins the psalm with "why" and "how long" questions, since knowing God can act makes Gods inactivity all the more puzzling.
Verse:12, he confesses that God is Israel's King, hope, and Savior, the whole psalm rests on this truth. Recalling God's power over the waters and creation gives him confidence to ask God to remember his people and the covenant God had made
The psalm's urgent petitions model honest prayer conveys desperation and security in God, whom the psalmist approaches with boldness. It also invites us to ask God to reveal how He is at work in our own painful situations and what role He wants us to play

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Is it ever right to ask God why?
2. Is there any difference between 'how come' and 'why'?
3. Who are the - sheep of Gods' pastures?
4. Did God purchase Israel or did He choose them?
5. Does God ever forget anything?
6. What is it for a person to be redeemed?
7. Does Gods' presence manifest itself more in one place than another?
8. Is there ever a time when something is irreparable?
9. God's sanctuary was the temple, and the church is now the face of God today.
10. For the enemy of God to roar in God's sanctuary is for him to mock God.
11. God's people have let God's enemy establish an alternative representation of God.
12. God's people have let God's enemy, utterly destroy God's standards, so have misrepresented God.
13. God's name has been dishonoured.
14. Every time a church is sold for something other than for the worship of His name, He is insulted.
15. To say something in your heart is to speak from the 'who you are'.
16. They have stopped coming to the house of God, rather they visit the house of self-desires.
17. If there is no one to speak God's word, the people scatter.
18. When it's dark, no-one knows how long it will be before it becomes light again.
19. Will God's people let God's enemy treat His name disrespectfully forever?
20. The sinfulness of God's people restrains God's hand from redeeming the honour of God's name.
21. When God acts using His right hand, He does so in His anger.
22. As Christians how are we to contest with God's enemies?
23. It's always a good thing to remember God's hand of blessing on your life when life is dark.

24. The object of remembering is to re-establish your faith, and so, trust in God's salvation again.
25. Is there anything God can't do for your good?
26. In the night was there was God, He spoke and there was light, then winter and summer - God is able.
27. Why do the foolish exist?
28. What does the soul of the turtle dove mean?
29. Even after God judges there is hope in His compassion.
30. Why is the spirit of violence successful in darkness?
31. What is the covenant that God has made with you?
32. What happens to us when we praise the Lord in difficult seasons?
33. Evil has a big mouth!
34. How might God arise?