Psalms 79-81 (Week 27)

Mike Minear · Psalm 79 · Series: **A Year in the Psalms**

1 Psalm 79: How Long, Lord?

Psalm 79; Psalm 74

- O God, the nations have come into your inheritance, your holy temple they have defiled.
- How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever?
- Help us, O God, for our salvation, for the glory of your name, and deliver us and provide atonement for our sins for your name's sake.
- This psalm is the collective lament of the community of Jerusalem in a time of national disaster.
- The description of the defiling of the temple and the devastation of the city points to a serious destruction, such as the Babylonian conquest in 586.
- The Jews have long connected these two points for use on the fast day which commemorates the two destructions of Jerusalem in 586 BC and in AD seventy.

2 Give Ear, O Shepherd of Israel

Psalm 74; Psalm 79

- Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
- Restore us, O God, cause your face to shine, and we shall be saved.
- Here we find another expression of national lament in a time of distress.
- The cry is designed to call God into action to restore his people.
- Another metaphor is used here to show how God nurtured his chosen people after transplanting the vine from Egypt to Canaan.
- The psalmist prays for help for God's people, Israel, depicted as the man of God's right hand. Ultimately, the Messiah became the fulfillment of this prayer.

3 Psalm 81: Sing Aloud to God Our Strength

Psalm 81

- Sing aloud to God our strength, make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.
- I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- But my people will not heed my voice, and Israel would have none of me.
- Oh that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways.
- A hymn of praise opens Psalm 81, and a prophetic utterance concludes it.
- The references to the new moon and to the full moon, probably give the poem double reference to the feast of trumpets and the feast of tabernacles.

MY NOTES