

Sunday Night Message

December 7, 2014

Psalm 77

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 77

Introduction to the Psalms of Asaph

Psalm 73 through 83 (as well as Psalm 50, are attributed to Asaph. Asaph was a musician who was also a worship leader in the sanctuary. (See 1 Chronicles 15:16–19; 16:4–7, 37–42; 2 Chronicles 5:12–14; 29:13; 35:15).

Introduction to Psalm 77

Jeduthun is mentioned with Asaph during the reign of David:

"Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:" (1 Chronicles 25:1)

Jeduthun is also mentioned with Asaph in connection to King Solomon:

"Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)" (2 Chronicles 5:12)

Also in connection with King Hezekiah:

"And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel." (2 Chronicles 29:14)

And King Josiah:

"And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron. And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their

service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them." (2 Chronicles 35:14-15)

And in the days of Nehemiah after the return of Israel to Jerusalem, after the captivity:

"And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer: and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun." (Nehemiah 11:17)

This psalm, like the previous three attributed to Asaph, seems to fit better historically in the context of the destruction of Jerusalem. If that be true, then it was written by a different Asaph than the one who served underneath King David.

The priests that served in the Temple descended from Aaron, and it also seems that the leaders of worship in the Temple descended from Asaph and Jeduthun.

I A Cry of Despair (vs. 1 - 3)

II A Change of Direction (vs. 4 - 9)

The psalmist goes from utter despair in his circumstance to confident trust in the Lord by asking 6 hypothetical questions.

Focusing on our circumstances will always lead to doubt, confusion and despair; but focusing on the Lord will remove the doubt, clear up the confusion, and leave us with peaceful hope.

III A Conclusion of Determination (vs. 10 - 20)

Notice the references to the Exodus:

This appears to be a companion psalm to 74, which also lamented the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of Israel. Both deal with the Lord's apparent rejection of His people (74:1; 77:7), and both look for renewed hope back to the Exodus (74:12-15; 77:16-19).¹

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., p. 250). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

"I will" is used four times – compare to Isaiah 14:12 – 15

What did the psalmist determine to do:

Remember God

Turn to Deuteronomy 8

What He did in Israel's past

What He did in Asaph's past

Meditate on God

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8)

"When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches." (Psalm 63:6)

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
(Psalm 1:1-3)*

"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands." (Psalm 143:5)

Talk about God

Go to God's House

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)