

## ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE DARKEST NIGHT

### PSALM 74

Introduction:

It began on March 16, 587 B. C. The city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judah crumbled under the relentless siege of the Babylonians. The invaders went to the temple first and proceeded to utterly destroy it. The place where the people had met with God was burned to the ground. The people of Yahweh were carried into exile to be sold as slaves, or to live in extreme poverty.

This Asaph remembers that terrible event with this psalm which was sung by the survivors as they tried to make sense of their present situation. What a moving lament!

Woven into the text of this lament are some things that gave a little hope in the darkness of this horrible night. Not all was lost. They are the same things that will hold you when it appears that God has forsaken you. Many of us have or will know such nights on this journey toward eternity.

I. YOU ARE THE STILL THE PEOPLE OF GOD. (V. 1-3)

1. Still His sheep.
2. Still His congregation.
3. Still His inheritance.

## II. GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL. (V. 12-17)

1. He still sits as King.
2. He still works salvation.
3. He still sets the boundaries.

## III. GOD WILL STILL HONOR HIS COVENANT. (V. 18-23)

1. The covenant binds God to His people.
2. The covenant makes their cause His cause.

Knowing these three things saved the psalmist from utter despair. It also prompted them to turn to God in earnest prayer. They did not become bitter skeptics, rather they became earnest intercessors. They did not accuse God; they sought the Lord with all of their hearts.