



DATE: 15 May 2024 WED
TEXT: **Psalm 77**
TITLE: :: **Like Asaph**

I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

PSALM 77:12

INTRODUCTION

- Asaph was a little-known character in the Bible:

he was chosen by King David to lead worship in the Tabernacle and later when the Temple was completed under Solomon's reign

1 Chronicles 16:5

when David brought the Ark of The Covenant into Jerusalem, Asaph led the musical procession

1 Chronicles 15:16-19

Heman and *Jeduthun* were also musicians, but they led music in other parts of the country

Asaph's sons were entrusted with the leadership of the twenty-four courses of musicians

1 Chronicles 25:9-31

Asaph is listed in scriptures as both an honored seer and a gifted singer

2 Chronicles 29:30; 35:15

the **Sons of Asaph** formed a musical guild in Israel and took part in:

Hezekiah's revival **2 Chronicles 29:13**

Josiah's revival **2 Chronicles 35:15**

Zerubbabel's revival **Ezra 2:41**

- in reading the psalms he wrote, we begin to understand that Asaph was a spiritually-minded man, gifted in praise and prophecy, whose impact upon his own family lasted down through the centuries

his psalms, for the most part, are nationalistic in character and devoted to intercession for God's people

for these reasons he is offered up as an example of biblical meditation

PSALM 77

- **verses 1-6** Asaph begins by questioning God's silence, not His answers

There are some things God, in His goodness, does not explain

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- **verses 7-9** in rapid succession, he asks **SIX QUESTIONS** of God...they are not even *reasonable* questions

Asaph knows better...but he is in a panic and not thinking clearly

verse 9 *Selah*...he paused, took a breath, and then reconsidered his perspective

- **verses 12-13** Asaph has his **SOLUTION**

he is going to slow down and meditate on all the things God has done in the past

he is going to start with the understanding that God is always, first and foremost, concerned with His own righteousness

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary...

- **verse 10** This is my infirmity...this is my weak spot; this is what rubs me the wrong way

we should all recognize our weaknesses
and not give into them

verses 10-11 show us Asaph's course of thinking

1. THE PLAN OF GOD **verse 10**

...I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.

the word *years* leads us to think about the plan of God from eternity past

Ephesians 3:9

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ...

coupled with the **right hand of God** is the name **Ei Elyon** that shows us His strength and ability to accomplish what He set out to do

Genesis 14:18-20

...possessor of Heaven and Earth

NOTE: **verse 21** the king of Sodom (a type of satan) wanted the *souls*, not the *spoils*..

like Asaph, we should meditate on the long-range goal God has in mind for each of us...the end has already been determined

the rapture of the saints

the Marriage Supper, Judgment Seat, etc.

Millennial Kingdom, eternity, etc.

remember: the purpose of this life is learning to live with God for eternity

2. THE PROMISE OF GOD **verse 11a**

I will remember the works of the LORD...

verse 8 ...doth his promise fail for evermore?

God's work is to fulfill the promises He has made

Asaph connected these **works** with His **name**

LORD = Jehovah, the covenant name of God

Hebrews 6:13-14

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

verse 18 ...it was impossible for God to lie

God does what He does, because He is who He is

He is not moved by emotion, etc.

if He failed on His promises, He would not be God

Zacharias understood this promise, too

Luke 1:69-73

And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he swore to our father Abraham...

Psalm 105:41-42

He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.
For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.

3. THE POWER OF GOD **verse 11b**

...surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

wonders are **miracles** God performed and these wonders tended to overwhelm those who saw them

likewise, Asaph reminds us that God has worked miraculously from the beginning ...*of old*

verse 14 the God that **doeth** wonders

Job 10:10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Hebrews 2:1-4 throughout human history, these miracles were performed in order to confirm God's power and plan to:

the Jews	...signs and wonders
the Gentiles	...miracles
Christians	...gifts

CONCLUSION

verse 19 ...thy footsteps are not known

sometimes the presence of God is easily seen and known

at other times, it takes great investigation and discernment to see evidence of God's working

this is when we pause, like Asaph, and ponder God's *plan, promise* and *power*

NOTE: the immediate context of this verse is God's parting of the Red Sea...the waters rolled in and covered up the evidence of the miracle

verse 20 notice the abrupt ending...as if Asaph got all he needed and moved on...



THINK reading list:

Psalm 50, 73-83 The Psalms of Asaph



THINK playlist:

It Is Well With My Soul

Voice of Truth, Casting Crowns