

Analysis of

Psalm 77

Asaph's Despair over God's Present Rejection of Israel Tempered by His Rehearsal of God's Past Redemption

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
October, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Psalm 77

**Asaph's Despair over God's Present Rejection of Israel
Tempered by His Rehearsal of God's Past Redemption**

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

- A1 ASAPH'S TROUBLED QUESTIONING IF GOD WILL REJECT ISRAEL
FOREVER 77:1-9
- A2 ASAPH'S DECISION TO REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE
PAST THOUGH IT SEEMS HIS POLICY HAS CHANGED 77:10-15
- A3 ASAPH'S REHEARSAL OF ELOHIM'S PAST SOVEREIGN ACTIVITY
ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE 77:16-20

Major Divisions of Psalm 77

Based on the Expanded Analysis of Psalm 77

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

October, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Psalm 77

Asaph's Despair over God's Present Rejection of Israel Tempered by His Rehearsal of God's Past Redemption

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

- A1 ASAPH'S TROUBLED QUESTIONING IF GOD WILL REJECT ISRAEL FOREVER 77:1-9**
- B1 Asaph's Disturbed Cry to Elohim 77:1-3
 - B2 Asaph's Troubled Meditation 77:4-6
- A2 ASAPH'S DECISION TO REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST THOUGH IT SEEMS HIS POLICY HAS CHANGED 77:10-15**
- B1 His Sad Conclusion That the Policy of the Most High Has Changed 77:10
 - B2 His Decision to Remember Yahweh's Past Actions 77:11
 - B3 His Resolve to Meditate on God's Ways 77:12
 - B4 His Praise of Elohim's Holiness and Greatness 77:13
 - B5 Elohim Works Wonders and Demonstrates His Strength 77:14
 - B6 God's Redemption of Israel 77:15
- A3 ASAPH'S REHEARSAL OF ELOHIM'S PAST SOVEREIGN ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE 77:16-20**
- B1 The Sovereignty of Elohim in Nature 77:16-18
 - B2 The Sovereignty of Elohim in Nature on Behalf of His People 77:19-20

Condensed Outline of Psalm 77
Based on the Expanded Analysis of Psalm 77
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
October, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Psalm 77

Asaph's Despair over God's Present Rejection of Israel Tempered by His Rehearsal of God's Past Redemption

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman
Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org).

A1 ASAPH'S TROUBLED QUESTIONING IF GOD WILL REJECT ISRAEL FOREVER 77:1-9

B1 Asaph's Disturbed Cry to Elohim 77:1-3

C1 Audible Cry to Elohim 77:1

D1 Audible cry: {1} My voice *rises* to God, and I will cry aloud;

D2 Assurance of response: My voice *rises* to God, and He will hear me.

C2 Seeking for Adonai with Discomfort of Soul 77:2

D1 Troubled seeking during the day: {2} In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;

D2 Tireless reaching at night: In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;

D3 Endless discomfort: My soul refused to be comforted.

C3 Remembering Elohim with Disturbed Spirit 77:3

D1 Disturbed remembrance: {3} *When* I remember God, then I am disturbed;

D2 Sighing with faint-hearted spirit: *When* I sigh, then my spirit grows faint. Selah.

B2 Asaph's Troubled Meditation 77:4-6

C1 The Depth of His Torment 77:4

D1 Elohim-Induced Sleeplessness: {4} You have held my eyelids *open*;

D2 Anguished Silence: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

- C2 Reflecting on the Past 77:5
 - D1 {5} I have considered the days of old,
 - D2 The years of long ago.
- C3 His Nocturnal Meditations 77:6
 - D1 Structured in Song: {6} I will remember my song in the night;
 - D2 Meditating: I will meditate with my heart,
 - D3 Pondering: And my spirit ponders:
- C4 Questioning Whether Adonai Elohim's Rejection is Permanent 77:7-9
 - D1 Will Adonai reject forever? 77:7
 - E1 {7} Will the Lord reject forever?
 - E2 And will He never be favorable again?
 - D2 Have His loyal love and promise ceased forever? 77:8
 - E1 {8} Has His lovingkindness ceased forever?
 - E2 Has *His* promise come to an end forever?
 - D3 Has Elohim forgotten His gracious compassion? 77:9
 - E1 {9} Has God forgotten to be gracious,
 - E2 Or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion? Selah.

**A2 ASAPH'S DECISION TO REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST
THOUGH IT SEEMS HIS POLICY HAS CHANGED 77:10-15**

B1 His Sad Conclusion That the Policy of the Most High Has Changed 77:10

- C1 His sadness: {10} Then I said, "It is my grief,
- C2 His conclusion: That the right hand of the Most High has changed."

B2 His Decision to Remember Yahweh's Past Actions 77:11

- C1 His deeds: {11} I shall remember the deeds of the LORD;
- C2 His ancient wonders: Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

B3 His Resolve to Meditate on God's Ways 77:12

C1 On His work: {12} I will meditate on all Your work

C2 On His deeds: And muse on Your deeds.

B4 His Praise of Elohim's Holiness and Greatness 77:13

C1 Elohim's holy way: {13} Your way, O God, is holy;

C2 Elohim's unparalleled greatness: What god is great like our God?

B5 Elohim Works Wonders and Demonstrates His Strength 77:14

C1 Elohim's miracles: {14} You are the God who works wonders;

C2 His revelation of His strength: You have made known Your strength among the peoples.

B6 God's Redemption of Israel 77:15

C1 His powerful redemption of His people: {15} You have by Your power redeemed Your people,

C2 The identification of His people: The sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

A3 ELOHIM'S SOVEREIGN ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE AT THE RED SEA 77:16-20

B1 The Sovereignty of Elohim in Nature 77:16-18

C1 Causing Turbulence in the Seas 77:16

D1 {16} The waters saw You, O God;

D2 The waters saw You, they were in anguish;

D3 The deeps also trembled.

C2 Causing Tempest in the Skies 77:17

D1 Rainstorm: {17} The clouds poured out water;

D2 Thunder: The skies gave forth a sound;

D3 Lightning: Your arrows flashed here and there.

C3 Causing Turmoil upon the Earth 77:18

D1 Roaring Whirlwind: {18} The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;

D2 Flashing Lightning: The lightnings lit up the world;

D3 Reverberating Earthquake: The earth trembled and shook.

B2 The Sovereignty of Elohim in Nature on Behalf of His People 77:19-20

C1 His Unfathomable Rescue of Israel through the Sea 77:19

D1 {19} Your way was in the sea ¹

D2 And Your paths in the mighty waters,

D3 And Your footprints may not be known.

C2 Leading His People like a Flock 77:20

D1 {20} You led Your people like a flock

D2 By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 77

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

October, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

¹ 77:19 - Your way was in the sea: A reference to God's preservation of Israel at the expense of the Egyptian army through the Red Sea.