

Finding Hope...

When All Hope Seems Lost

**“My feet came close to stumbling,
My steps had almost slipped...
Until I came into the sanctuary of God”**

Psalm 73:2, 17

Books Three & Four of Psalms

Finding Hope...

Five Books

- Purpose in their arrangement?
- “The Flow of the Psalms” by O. Palmer Robertson
 - Confrontation (Book 1)
 - Communication (Book 2)
 - Devastation (Book 3)
 - Maturation (Book 4)
 - Consummation (Book 5)

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The Devestation

- 2 Kings 25
- Psalm 74:3-9; Psalm 79:1-4
 - Jerusalem and the temple defiled and destroyed
 - No prophet remained to inquire of God
- Psalm 80:1-2, 5-6, 12-13, 16
 - Not only Judah, but Samaria and Israel as well
 - Pilfered by all who pass
- Psalm 89:38-45
 - Upbeat in 1-37 remembering the covenant promises
 - Book ends with no king on the throne (v. 39, 44)

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The Laments

- Psalm 73:1-14 (Personal)
 - "If I didn't know better..." (v. 1-2)
 - What he sees and hears (v. 3-12)
 - "Am I wasting my time?" (v. 13-14)
- Psalm 88 (Corporate)
 - Incline/Bow down and hear (v. 2; 86:1)
 - Darkness throughout
 - No resolution of hope

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How Long? Why?

- “Why do you withdraw Your hand?” (74:1, 10-11)
- “Has God forgotten to be gracious?” (77:7-10)
- “Will you be angry forever?” (79:5-10)
- “Restore us... that Your people may rejoice in You.” (85:5-7)
- “Where are Your former lovingkindnesses... which You swore to David?” (89:46-49)

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The Prayers

- All about Jehovah (74:1-7; 79:1-6; 83:1-5)
- For His glory (79:9-13)
- Preserve the work You have done (80:8-11; 14-19)
- Psalm 84... A prayer of yearning
- Psalm 86... A prayer of David