

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (May 27, 2020)

Order/Prayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Sharing → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 137 & 178 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 79:1~13
- ❖ **Meditation on Scripture**
 1. This psalm seems like a petition to God. It tells the situation at first.
 2. The outsiders of Judah came into the temple of God and defiled it and laid Jerusalem in ruins(v.1), killed the Israelites, the Judahites more accurately, threw their dead bodies to the birds of the heavens and to the beasts of the earth for food so the birds and beasts were gathered in Jerusalem(v.2), poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem because they could not be buried on account of no time to bury(v.3), and Judah became a taunt to their neighbors, mocked and derided by those around them(v.4). The writer cries out to God: when will God's jealousy burn like fire?(v.5). But, the writer and the Judahites well know the reason why Judah was in trouble due to the invasion of Babylon in 586 B.C.: the result of their sin against God.
 3. After petition, the writer of this psalm requests God that God would pour out His anger on the pagan nation, Babylon(v.6) on account of its iniquity that they have devoured Judah and laid waste their habitation(v.7). In other words, the sin against God is the reason for these difficulties. In addition, he asks God to take away the sin of their ancestors and to meet the Judahites with His "compassion"(v.8). Then, he continues to ask God to help and save the Judahites, and forgive their sins **for God's name's sake**(v.9). The reason why the writer mentions "for God's name's sake" is to shut up the mouth of the pagan nation which might mock God by mumbling "Where is their God?"(v.10), and requests God to avenge their iniquities(v.10).
 4. Moreover, he asks God to recover Judah out of death, to preserve them, bring the sevenfold(enough) judgment on the pagan nation, Babylon (vv. 11~12). The Judahites, recovered from the difficulties, as the result of God's salvation, will give thanks to God and praise Him forever(v.13).
 5. The request of the recovery(or salvation) "for the sake of God's name" mentioned in verse 9 above does not mean that God's people should be recovered so that God's name is exalted. Rather, the core flowing within this text is that the Judahites, due to their sins against God, deserve their devastation which now they go through, nevertheless, if God rescue them with compassion, then, **in the end**, God will be highly proclaimed as God of wrath as well as **"God of grace."**
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. Due to COVID-19, we are still living the difficult and complicated life. In this time, why don't we have a chance to check and evaluate our life? Let's have a moment and share together!
 2. Along with the checking and confessing whether or not we have wrong doings in us and how big they are, we are supposed to have a moment to **give thanks to God** for His salvation for us (we became His children) because He gave us, who are difficult to be changed and improved in life, the faith in Christ Jesus **"by the immense grace of God" in the end**, not to mention the moment to **hand over** all our difficult matters nowadays to our heaven Father as the writer of this psalm did in the text.
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.