**PSALM 73**

Ut quid, Deus.

*A prayer of the church under grievous persecutions.*

**1** Understanding for Asaph.

O God, why hast thou cast us off unto the end: why is thy wrath enkindled against the sheep of thy pasture?

**2** Remember thy congregation, which thou hast possessed from the beginning. The sceptre of thy inheritance which thou hast redeemed: mount Sion in which thou hast dwelt.

**3** Lift up thy hands against their pride unto the end; see what things the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.

**4** And they that hate thee have made their boasts, in the midst of thy solemnity. They have set up their ensigns for signs,

**5** and they knew not both in the going out and on the highest top. As with axes in a wood of trees,

**6** they have cut down at once the gates thereof, with axe and hatchet they have brought it down.

**7** They have set fire to thy sanctuary: they have defiled the dwelling place of thy name on the earth.

**8** They said in their heart, the whole kindred of them together: Let us abolish all the festival days of God from the land.

**9** Our signs we have not seen, there is now no prophet: and he will know us no more.

**10** How long, O God, shall the enemy reproach: is the adversary to provoke thy name for ever?

**11** Why dost thou turn away thy hand: and thy right hand out of the midst of thy bosom for ever?

**12** But God is our king before ages: he hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

**13** Thou by thy strength didst make the sea firm: thou didst crush the heads of the dragons in the waters.

**14** Thou hast broken the heads of the dragon: thou hast given him to be meat for the people of the Ethiopians.

**15** Thou hast broken up the fountains and the torrents: thou hast dried up the Ethan rivers.

**16** Thine is the day, and thine is the night: thou hast made the morning light and the sun.

**17** Thou hast made all the borders of the earth: the summer and the spring were formed by thee.

**18** Remember this, the enemy hath reproached the Lord: and a foolish people hath provoked thy name.

**19** Deliver not up to beasts the souls that confess to thee: and forget not to the end the souls of thy poor.

**20** Have regard to thy covenant: for they that are the obscure of the earth have been filled with dwellings of iniquity.

**21** Let not the humble be turned away with confusion: the poor and needy shall praise thy name.

**22** Arise, O God, judge thy own cause: remember thy reproaches with which the foolish man hath reproached thee all the day.

**23** Forget not the voices of thy enemies: the pride of them that hate thee ascendeth continually.