

1 O God, why have you utterly disowned us? □

Why does your anger burn

against the sheep of your pasture?

2 Remember your congregation that you purchased of old, □

the tribe you redeemed for your own possession,

and Mount Zion where you dwelt.

3 Hasten your steps towards the endless ruins, □

where the enemy has laid waste all your sanctuary.

4 Your adversaries roared in the place of your worship; □

they set up their banners as tokens of victory.

5 Like men brandishing axes on high in a thicket of trees, □

all her carved work they smashed down with hatchet and hammer.

6 They set fire to your holy place; □

they defiled the dwelling place of your name

and razed it to the ground.

7 They said in their heart, 'Let us make havoc of them altogether,' □

and they burned down all the sanctuaries of God in the land.

8 There are no signs to see, not one prophet left, □

not one among us who knows how long.

9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? □

Shall the enemy blaspheme your name for ever?

10 Why have you withheld your hand □

and hidden your right hand in your bosom?

11 Yet God is my king from of old, □

who did deeds of salvation in the midst of the earth.

12 It was you that divided the sea by your might □

and shattered the heads of the dragons on the waters;

13 You alone crushed the heads of Leviathan □

and gave him to the beasts of the desert for food.

14 You cleft the rock for fountain and flood; □

you dried up ever-flowing rivers.

15 Yours is the day, yours also the night; □

you established the moon and the sun.

16 You set all the bounds of the earth; □

you fashioned both summer and winter.

17 Remember now, Lord, how the enemy scoffed, □

how a foolish people despised your name.

18 Do not give to wild beasts the soul of your turtle dove; □

forget not the lives of your poor for ever.

19 Look upon your creation,

for the earth is full of darkness, □

full of the haunts of violence.

20 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed, □

but let the poor and needy praise your name.

21 Arise, O God, maintain your own cause; □

remember how fools revile you all the day long.

22 Forget not the clamour of your adversaries, □

the tumult of your enemies that ascends continually.

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