

قَصِيدَةُ لَأَسَافَ.

¹Maschil of Asaph. O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? ²Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. ³Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary. ⁴Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs. ⁵A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees. ⁶But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers. ⁷They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. ⁸They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land. ⁹We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long. ¹⁰O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever? ¹¹Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom. ¹²For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. ¹³Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. ¹⁴Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness. ¹⁵Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers. ¹⁶The day is thine, the night

¹لِمَاذَا رَفَضْتَنَا يَا إِلَهَهُ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ؟ لِمَاذَا يُدَحِّنُ عَصَبَكَ عَلَى عَتَمٍ مَرْعَاكَ؟ ²أَذْكُرْ جَمَاعَتَكَ الَّتِي أَفْتَنَيْتَهَا مِنْذُ الْقَدَمِ وَقَدَيْتَهَا سِبْطاً مِيرَاثِكَ، جَبَلَ صِهْيُونَ هَذَا الَّذِي سَكَنْتَ فِيهِ. ³أَرْفَعُ حَطَوَاتِكَ إِلَى الْخَرْبِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ. الْكُلُّ قَدْ حَطَّمَ الْعَدُوُّ فِي الْمُقَدَّسِ. ⁴قَدْ زَمَجَرَ مُقَاوِمُوكَ فِي وَسْطِ مَعْبَدِكَ، جَعَلُوا آيَاتِهِمْ آيَاتٍ. ⁵يَبَارُكَ كَأَنَّهُ رَافِعُ فُؤُوسٍ عَلَى الْأَشْجَارِ الْمُشْتَبِكَةِ. ⁶وَالآنَ مَنُفُوسَاتِهِ مَعاً بِالْفُؤُوسِ وَالْمَعَاوِلِ يَكْسِرُونَ. ⁷أَطْلَقُوا النَّارَ فِي مَقْدِسِكَ، دَنَسُوا لِلْأَرْضِ مَسْكَنَ اسْمِكَ. ⁸قَالُوا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ: لِنَقْبِئَهُمْ مَعاً، أَحْرِقُوا كُلَّ مَعَاهِدِ اللَّهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ. ⁹آيَاتُنَا لَا تَرَى، لَا تَبْيُّ بَعْدُ، وَلَا بَيِّنَاتٍ مَنْ يَعْرِفُ حَتَّى مَتَى.

¹⁰حَتَّى مَتَى، يَا إِلَهَهُ، يُعَيِّرُ الْمُقَاوِمُ وَيُهَيِّنُ الْعَدُوُّ اسْمَكَ إِلَى الْعَالِيَةِ؟ ¹¹لِمَاذَا تَرُدُّ يَدَكَ وَيَمِينَكَ؟ أخرجها مِنْ وَسْطِ جَنْبِكَ، أَفْنِ. ¹²وَاللَّهُ مَلِكِي مِنْذُ الْقَدَمِ، فَاعِلُ الْخَلَاصِ فِي وَسْطِ الْأَرْضِ. ¹³أَنْتَ سَقَقْتَ الْبَحْرَ بِقُوَّتِكَ، كَسَرْتَ رُؤُوسَ الثَّانِينَ عَلَى الْمِيَاهِ. ¹⁴أَنْتَ رَضَضْتَ رُؤُوسَ لَوْبَاتَانٍ، جَعَلْتَهُ طَعَاماً لِلشَّعْبِ، لِأَهْلِ الْبَرِّيَّةِ. ¹⁵أَنْتَ فَجَرْتَ عَيْناً وَسَيْلاً، أَنْتَ يَبَسْتَ أَنْهَاراً دَائِمَةً الْجَرَيَانِ. ¹⁶لَكَ النَّهَارُ وَلَكَ أَيْضاً اللَّيْلُ، أَنْتَ هَيَّأْتَ النُّورَ وَالشَّمْسَ. ¹⁷أَنْتَ تَصَبَّتْ كُلُّ ثُخُومِ الْأَرْضِ، الصَّيْفَ وَالسَّيْفَ أَنْتَ خَلَقْتَهُمَا.

¹⁸أَذْكُرْ هَذَا، أَنْ الْعَدُوُّ قَدْ عَيَّرَ الرَّبَّ وَشَعَباً جَاهِلاً قَدْ أَهَانَ اسْمَكَ. ¹⁹لَا تُسَلِّمُ لِلْوَحْشِ نَفْسَ بَهَامَتِكَ، قَطِيعَ بَائِسِيكَ لَا تُنْسِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. ²⁰أَنْظُرْ إِلَيَّ الْعَهْدِ، لِأَنَّ مُطْلِمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ امْتَلَأَتْ مِنْ مَسَاكِينِ الظُّلَمِ. ²¹لَا يَرْجِعَنَّ الْمُتَسَحِّقُ حَازِئاً، الْفَقِيرُ وَالبَائِسُ لِيَسْبَحَا اسْمَكَ. ²²قُمْ، يَا إِلَهَهُ، أَقُمْ دَعْوَاكَ. أَذْكُرْ تَغْيِيرَ الْجَاهِلِ إِيَّاكَ الْيَوْمَ كُلَّهُ. ²³لَا تُنْسَ صَوْتُ أَصْدَاكِ، صَاحِجِ مُقَاوِمِكَ الصَّاعِدِ دَائِماً.

also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.¹⁷ Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.¹⁸ Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.¹⁹ O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever.²⁰ Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.²¹ O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.²² Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.²³ Forget not the voice of thine enemies: the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.