



**Staking a Claim on the Past
A Study of Psalm 77**

**When we see God
in the shadow of our hardship
(verses 1-9)**

- ¹I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ²When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
- ⁴You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
- ⁵I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
- ⁶I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
- ⁷"Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?"
- ⁸Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
- ⁹Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"

**When we see our hardship
in the light of God
(verses 10-20)**

¹⁰Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.

¹¹I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

¹²I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

¹³Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?

¹⁴You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.

¹⁵With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

¹⁶The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.

¹⁷The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.

¹⁸Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.

¹⁹Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.

²⁰You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.