

Why art thou Lord so long from us

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 74*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

OXFORD TUNE
TENOR
or Playnsong

BASSVS

Why art thou Lord so long from us in all this dan - ger deep:

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S.
why doth thine an - ger kind - le thus at thine own pas - ture sheep?

A.
Why doth thine an - ger kind - le thus at thine own pas - ture sheep?

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Why doth thine an - ger kind - le thus at thine own pas - ture sheep?

B.
Why doth thine an - ger kind - le thus at thine own pas - ture sheep?

2. Lord call the people to thy thought,
which have been thine so long:
The which thou hast redeemed and brought
from bondage sore and strong.

3. Have mind I say and think upon,
remember it full well:
The pleasent place, thy mount Sion,
where thou wast wont to dwell.

4. Lift up thy foot and come in haste,
and all thy foes deface:
Which now at pleasure rob and waste,
within thy holy place.

5. Amid the congregations all
thine enemies roare O God:
They set as signs on every wall
their banners 'splayed abroad.

6. As men with axes hew the trees,
that on the hills do grow:
So shine the bills and swords of these
within thy Temple now.

7. The cieling sawed, the carned boards,
the goodly graven stones
With axes, hammers, bills and swords,
they beat them down at once.

8. Thy places they consume with flame,
and eke in all this toil
The house appointed for thy name,
they rax down to the soil.

9. And thus they say within their heart,
dispatch them out of hand:

Then burn they up in every place,
Gods houses through the land.

10. Yea, thou no sign of help dost send,
our Prophets all are gone:
To tell when this our plague shall end,
among us there is none.

11. When wilt thou Lord once end this shame
and cease thine enemies strong ?
Shall they alway blasphem thy name,
and rail on thee so long ?

12. Why dost withdraw thy hand aback,
and hide it in the lap?
O pluck it out and be not slack
to give thy foes a rap.

The Second part.

13. O God that art my King and Lord,
and evermore hast been:
Yea, thy good grace throughout the world
for our good help hath seen.

14. The seas that are so deep and dead,
thy might did make them dry:
And thou didst break the Serpent's head
and he therein did die.

15. Yea, thou didst break the heads so great
of Whales that are so fell:
And gav'st them to the folk to eat,
that in the desert dwell.

16. Thou mad'st a spring of streams to rise
from rocks both hard and high:
And eke thy hand hath made likewise
deep rivers to be dry.

17. Both day and eke the night are thine,
by thee they were begun:

Thou sets to serve us with their shine,
the light and eke the Sun.

18. Thou dost appoint the ends and coasts
of all the earth about:
Both Summer heats, and Winters frosts,
thy hand hat found them out.

19. Think on O Lord, no time forget,
thy foes that thee defame:
And how the foolish folk are set
to rail upon thy name.

20. O let nu cruel beasts devour
thy Turtle that is true:
Forget not always in thy power,
the poor that much do rue.

21. Regard thy covenant and behold,
thy foes possess the Land:
All sad and dark for worn and old,
our realm as now doth stand.
21. Let not the simple go away
with disappointed shame:
But let the poor and needy aye
give praise unto thy name.

23. Rise Lord, let be by thee maintained
the cause that is thine own:
Remember how that thou blasphemmed
art by the foolish one.

24. The voice forget not of thy foes,
for the presuming high
Is more and more increased of those
that hate thee spitefully.

Critical notes:

This setting is similar to the one of Psalms 4 & 109;
text somewhat modernised.