

Psalm 78

The Prophet, in person of the Church, lamenteth the crueltie of persecutors (both in the old and new testament) 5. prayeth for release, with iust reuenge against Gods enemies, that blaspheme his name, 13. and promifeth to be grateful in diuine praises.

The Church
fuffereth verie
great persecu-
tions.
The 6. key.

A Psalm ^ato Afaph.

O God ^bthe Gentiles are come into thine inheritance, they ^chaue polluted thy holie temple: they haue made Ierusalem ^das a watch toure of fruits.

² They haue made ^ethe carcafes of thy seruants, meats for the foules of the aire: the flesh of thy faintes for the beastes of the land.

³ They haue poured out their bloude as water round about Ierusalem: and there was none to burie them.

⁴ We are ^fbecome a reproch to our neighboures: a scorn and mocke to them that are round about vs.

⁵ How long ^gô Lord wilt thou be angrie for euer: shal thy zeale be kindled as a fire?

^a To be fungue by Afaph and his companie, in the behalfe of people vnited in faith.

^b Cruel infidels haue inuaded those thinges, which pertain to thy Church,

^c euen possessed and prophaned the holie temple of the Iewes, and Churches of Catholique Christians. Fulfilled by Antiochus, in Ierusalem; by the Vandals in Afrique; by Protestants, and Puritans, in diuers partes of Europe, and wil be more vniuersally by Antichrist in al Christendom.

^d In steed of great and faire Churches, Gods seruantes are fane to vse meane houses, yea poore cottages.

^e Some persecutors suffer not Martyrs bodies to be buried, but hang them on poles, and pinnacles, where birdes may eate them.

^f Christians Gallileans, Catholiques Homosians, and now Papistes, in spite and reproch.

^g Sinnes prouoking Gods wrath, are one cause why he suffereth his people to be persecuted.

⁶ Poure out thy wrath vpon the Gentiles, ^{a)}that haue not knowne thee: & vpon the kingdomes, that haue not inuocated thy name.

⁷ Because they haue deuoured Iacob: and his place they haue made defolate.

⁸ ^{b)}Remember not our old iniquities, let thy mercies quickly preuent vs: because we are become exceding ^{c)}poore.

⁹ Help vs ô God our fauour: and for the glorie of thy name ô Lord deliuer vs: and be propitious to our finnes for thy names sake.

¹⁰ Left they fay perhaps amongft the Gentiles: ^{d)}Where is their God? and ^{e)}be notified in the nations before our eies.

The reuenge of the blood of thy feruants, which hath benne shed: ¹¹ let the groning of the fettered enter in thy fight.

According to the greatnes of thine arme, poffeffe thou ^{f)}the children of them that are put to death.

¹² And ^{g)}render to our neighboures feuenfold in their bofome: their reproch wherewith they haue reproched thee ô Lord.

^a Though the faithful committe fome finnes, yet in refpect that they beleue rightly, haue zeale in Gods caufe, and denie not God, they are nerer to grace and fauour.

^b Efpecially when they repent, and confeffe their finnes, then thofe that neither know nor wil know God; but obftinately impugne and refift the truth.

^c So much afflicted, and defpifed, that none wil regard the truth which we profeffe.

^d Albeit ô Lord, thou fuffer vs to be punifhed, yet fuffer not thyn enemies to inult, as though thou were not our God; and confequently thou haddeft no people at al in the world.

^e Therefore we pray, that the reuenge of thy feruantes blood may be fo notified, that it can not be denied, nor doubted of. Which is alfo here prophecied, that it wil fo come to paffe in the end.

^f Preferue alfo, ô God, the reliques of thy feruantes, the fucceffors of thy Martyrs.

^g This alfo is a prophecie, that God wil moft feuerely reuenge the blafphemie of perfecutors.

¹³ But ^awe thy people, and the sheepe of thy pasture,
wil confesse to thee for euer.

Vnto generation and generation we wil shew forth
thy praise.

^a Gods people deliuered from persecution, and perpetually conferred,
wil alwayes praise God for the fame.