

# Psalms 74:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?

## Analysis

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The psalmist pleads: "O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?" (Hebrew ad-matay Elohim y-charef tzar y-na'etz oyev shim-kha la-netzach). "How long" is lament's persistent question—not doubting God's ability but seeking His timing. "Adversary" and "enemy" blaspheme not just Israel but God's name. The duration ("forever") expresses felt perpetuity, though faith knows God will act. The verse makes God's honor, not merely Israel's welfare, the basis for petition.

## Historical Context

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Babylonian victory was interpreted as divine conquest—Marduk over Yahweh. This "blasphemy" of God's name was intolerable. Ezekiel 36:20-23 explains God must vindicate His name among nations. The "how long" cry appears throughout lament psalms (13:1, 35:17, 89:46) and finds ultimate answer in Revelation 6:10-11—martyrs ask "how long" until judgment, receiving white robes and promise of soon vindication.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When you ask "how long, O God," how do you balance honest lament with patient trust?
2. How does framing prayer around God's blasphemed name (not just personal suffering) change your perspective?
3. In what ways does Christ's vindication at resurrection answer the "how long" cry for God's name to be honored?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה	מִתְּנִיחַ	לְהַיִם	מִתְּנִיחַ	עַד			
H5704	H4970	<b>O God</b>	H430	<b>reproach</b>	H2778	<b>how long shall the adversary</b>	H6862
בְּאֹיְבִי	שְׁמַךְ	לְנִצְחָה					
<b>shall the enemy</b>	<b>thy name</b>	<b>for ever</b>					
H341	H8034	H5331					

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