

NIGHT QUESTIONSⁱ

1. All night long I toss and turn crying out in grief
2. Throughout the day my searching heart is troubled and afraid. By night I lie in sleeplessness, without comfort on my bed.
11. And all that's left are memories, and thoughts of former days.
12. I meditate upon your works remembering all you did.
13. Your ways, past all imaginings, as different as God from gods.
14. But you're the one who acted, your theater is the world.
15. You freed a lowly people, Joseph, Jacob, and Rachael's child.
16. And when they stood at water's edge the sea fell back in fear.
17. Then with a peal of thunder the clouds of heaven broke, your arrows flashed as lightning, across the darkened skies.
18. And from that mighty whirlwind your flames lit up the world.
19. You walked ahead through water, your path lay through the sea, and though we never saw you take a step, you were our company.
20. You led Moses alike a shepherd, you took Aaron by the hand, and they became for us, the flock of God, your mighty rod and staff.

ⁱ Notes

1. This psalm reflects a typical human experience, questions arising out of a sleepless night. The inner state of the psalmist is deep turmoil mixed with grief. The questions before the psalmist, however, are not only personal, they are social and theological. They are larger question of national concern.
2. The recounting of Exodus journey is told in this Psalm in epic proportions. This paradigmatic story, and the psalmist is seeking to make sense of the meaning of current events in light of the past.

Meditation

1. How has God led you? What descriptions of an unseen and invisible (but palpable) Presence could you give? It is the Presence which the Psalmist feels is interacting with the people through Hebrew history that seems to satisfy the psalmist's concerns. What conclusions did

the psalmist draw from this interaction? Can you draw the same conclusions, or does your prayer need to be different?