

PSALM 76 vs 1

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This is the 5th of 12 Psalms ascribed to Asaph, bearing this seer's name. In 2 Chronicles 29, Hezekiah ordered the Levites "to sing the words of David and of Asaph the seer" ... evidence the Spirit of God continues inspiring others to consider the ways of the Lord.

Divisions: The Director is instructed to perform this song accompanied with stringed instruments. The master of the harpers was called upon for his most skillful musicianship; truly the song is worthy of the sweetest sounds strings can yield. Faith in the 75th Psalm sung of victories to come; here it sings of triumphs achieved. The Psalm is the most jubilant war song, a paean to the King of kings, the hymn of a theocratic nation well preserved. – Charles Spurgeon.



For the Chief musician, on the string instruments.

A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

¹ God is known in Judah: His name is great in Israel.

² In Salem is His Tent, His dwelling place is in Zion.

³ There He broke the flaming arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

Selah, pause, think about it: if unknown to all the world, God has so revealed Himself to His people by His deeds of grace, that He is not unknown to them. Those who know His name admire His greatness. And without leaving His tranquil abode, He sent forth His word and snapped the arrows of His enemies.

⁴ You are more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.

⁵ The brave-hearted are plundered, they sunk into deep sleep: and none of the mighty men found their hands.

⁶ At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both chariot rider and horse are cast into a dead sleep.

⁷ You, even You are to be feared: and who can stand before You when once You are angry?

⁸ From heaven, You cause justice to be heard; the earth feared, and was still;

⁹ when God arose to judgment, to save all the oppressed of the earth.

Selah / pause, think about it: far more is the Lord to be praised than all the invading powers which sought to oppress His people. Assyria had pillaged the nations till it had become rich with mountains of spoil, it was the talk among men as glory; but the Psalmist despises such renown, and declares the Lord is far more glorious. Persecutions tend to correct the failings of good men, and to exercise and illustrate their virtues. By these, good men are usually made much better and more approved.

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¹⁰ Surely the wrath of man praises You: **with a remnant of wrath You gird Yourself.**

¹¹ Vow, and pay to the LORD your God:

let all who surround Him bring gifts to the Awesome One.

¹² **He restrains the spirit of princes: He terrifies the kings of the earth.** / think about it: after God defeats the purposes of evil men, and makes them contribute to His glory, yet abundant wrath remains. But what becomes of the wrath that is left? God will “restrain” it. And think about it: to vow or not is a matter of choice, but to fulfill our vows is our duty. He who would defraud God, is a wretch indeed. God keeps His promises, let not His people fail in theirs. He is faithful and should have faithful people. He deals with princes as men deal with a vine. An axe is too strong for a cluster of grapes, or a sprig of a vine. Their courage, skill and life are in His hands; He can remove them as a gardener cuts a slip from a plant. None are great in His hand. Caesars and Napoleons fall under His power as the boughs of the tree fall from the woodman’s axe. While they are terrible to others, **He is terrifying to them.** – Charles Spurgeon.

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