

PSALMS 75 and 76

The occasion for the writing of this psalm cannot be determined with any certainty, but its theme can be stated as "Past Deliverances the Basis for Present Relief." God takes issue with those who presumptuously rise up against him. The note of positive victory is strong throughout, and God will bring judgment against the wicked at his appointed time.

Psalm 75

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

- 1 We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks, for Your name is near;
men declare Your wondrous works.
- 2 "When I select an appointed time, it is I who judge with equity.
- 3 "The earth and all who dwell in it melt; it is I who have firmly set its pillars. Selah
- 4 "I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn;
5 do not lift up your horn on high, do not speak with insolent pride.'"

- 6 For not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the desert *comes* exaltation;
7 but God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.
- 8 For a cup is in the hand of YAHWEH, and the wine foams;
it is well mixed, and He pours out of this;
surely all the wicked of the earth must drain *and* drink down its dregs.

- 9 But as for me, I will declare *it* forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
- 10 And all the horns of the wicked He will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.

This psalm appears to be a tribute of praise to God for the deliverance of Israel when they were attacked by Sennacherib's army during the reign of Hezekiah. We read in Isaiah 39:36 that the angel of Yahweh went out and killed 185,000 Assyrians in their camp. What is valor or strength or worldly wisdom against the Almighty? Safe and happy are the people who trust in the God of Jacob.

Psalm 76

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

- 1 God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.
- 2 His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

3 There He broke the flaming arrows,
the shield and the sword and the weapons of war. Selah
4 You are resplendent, more majestic than the mountains of prey.
5 The stouthearted were plundered, they sank into sleep;
and none of the warriors could use his hands.
6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse were cast into a dead sleep.
7 You, even You, are to be feared;
and who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?
8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still
9 when God arose to judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah
10 For the wrath of man shall praise You; with a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.
11 Make vows to YAHWEH your God and fulfill *them*;
let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared.
12 He will cut off the spirit of princes; He is feared by the kings of the earth.

PRAYER

Lord God, you are the judge of all the earth. Who can stand before you when your anger is aroused? Have mercy upon us and keep us from all temptation, for without your aid we are helpless. Give us grace to await your coming in all humility and charity, that we be not stiff-necked and exalted in our own opinions. May we submit to your yoke with meekness and obedience, that we may sit down at your table and enjoy the blessings of eternity through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.