

PSALMS BOOK 3

PSALM 76

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A song.

1. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.
 - a. His tent is in Salem, His dwelling place in Zion.
 - b. There He broke the flashing arrows, the shields and the swords, the weapons of war ("battle," a term describing weaponry).
Selah
2. You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game. a. Valiant ("strong, mighty") men lie plundered, they sleep ("have slept") their last sleep; not one of the warriors can lift his hands (That is, they are powerless) See 2 King 19:35-38.
- At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both horse and chariot lie still. (Ps 33:16)
- You alone are to be feared. (Rev 15:3-4, Ps 96:4)
 - b. Who can stand against You when You are angry? (Na 1:6, 2 Thes 1:5-10)
- From heaven You pronounced judgment
- and the land feared and was quiet - when You, O God, rose up to judge, to save all the afflicted of the land. (Ps 33:6-22)
Selah
3. Surely Your wrath against men (Lit, "the wrath of man" - what is proclaimed here is that human wrath and rebellion will only served to reveal God's sovereignty in the end.) You praise, and the survivors of Your wrath are restrained.
Make vows to the LORD; your God and fulfill them; let all the neighboring lands bring gifts to the One to be feared. (The result of God's justice will be praise and worship). He breaks the spirit of rulers; He is feared by the kings of the earth. (Ps 2, 47:2)

How do you see the LORD (and relate to Him)?

a cosmic "Buddy?"

A benign Enabler?

LORD and Master? The Holy and Righteous One worthy of all praise, honor, worship and obedience?

Are His words life and truth for you or mere suggestions?

How you answer these will reveal the state of your soul.

Vs 1: God is known by His people in Judah and Jerusalem - His name is great among them.

Vs 2: In Salem ("Jerusalem") is His tabernacle and His dwelling place in Zion. There the temple stood where He caused His presence to dwell. There is another possibility in this text - tabernacle and dwelling place can also be translated, "covert" and "lair." The idea thus expressed is one of God like a lion, darting out of His lair to seize His prey.

Vs 3: God shuts down human "might" and its pretensions. Weapons are useless against Him.

Vs 4: God, like a lion with its kill, returns from the "mountains of prey" victorious. See 15:1-4; Jer 51:20-25.

Vs 5: The stouthearted drift off into sleep (the sleep of death) and their power is gone. In 2 King 19 we read the narrative of God's defense of Jerusalem. Judah had been invaded and its cities besieged and conquered. Only Jerusalem held out and it was besieged. God struck the enemy army with a plague and delivered the city. (1 Sam 2:9, 17:47; Ps 20:7, 33:16, Pro 21:31)

Vs 6: At God's rebuke, human might is rendered powerless. He is Lord. Horses, chariots, tanks and warheads do not affect or impress Him.

Vs 7: He is to be feared, revered, honored and before His anger/judgment no one can stand or contend with Him. (Mal 3:2, Rev 6:17)

Vs 8: God's justice/judgment is inexorable and silences the raging of men. (Ps 46)

Vs 9: In His judgment, God cares for the afflicted. (See Is 1:1-10)

Vs 10: Man's rage against God changes nothing. He and He alone is Lord and all our acts only enhance His glory. In the end, all will praise Him (Phil 2:5-11).

Vs 11: Those who rebel and who survive the judgment learn and are restrained.

Vs 12: As it says in Prov 19:21, "Many are the plans in a man's/woman's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."