

Sunday Night Message

November 23, 2014

*Psalm 76*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 76

## **Introduction to the Psalms of Asaph**

Psalm 73 through 83 (as well as Psalm 50, are attributed to Asaph. Asaph was a musician who was also a worship leader in the sanctuary. (See 1 Chronicles 15:16–19; 16:4–7, 37–42; 2 Chronicles 5:12–14; 29:13; 35:15).

## **Introduction to Psalm 76**

This psalm, like the one that preceded it, speaks of God's judgment on an enemy. During David's reign as king, there were no enemies that threatened to destroy Israel. This psalm may have been written by Asaph and was prophetic of a future victory over the enemies of God's people, or it was written from the vantage point of history. If that is the case then it must have been written by another Asaph, or by someone using the name "Asaph" as a pseudonym. It seems to refer to the victory that God wrought over Assyria (2 Kings 18 – 19 and Isaiah 37 – 38). It certainly foreshadows God's future victory over Anti-Christ.

*"To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm or Song of Asaph."*

Neginoth – most likely means stringed instruments. In Habakkuk 3:19, the word, Neginoth is not transliterated; but is rather translated into the phrase "stringed instruments":

*"The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments." - (Habakkuk 3:19)*

## **I The Reputation of God Presence is Perceived (vs. 1 – 3)**

*"In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel." (Psalm 76:1)*

*"In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion." (Psalm 76:2)*

*"There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah." (Psalm 76:3)*

Notice there are four geographical locations mentioned in this section: Judah, Salem, Israel, and Zion. All of these places were known to be the places of God's presence. Judah was the tribe that would bear the Messiah. Salem is the City of God's people and the City of God. The Tabernacle was the place where God dwelt between the Cherubim. Israel is both a location and a family of People, God's People.

The psalmist is stating that God did miraculous and mighty things in these four places.

God was never limited to any geographic location. He was, and is, and always will be omnipresent:

*"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" (Acts 7:48-50)*

In a more specific way, God dwells in the hearts of His people.

*"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

*"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" (Colossians 1:27)*

The psalmist was stating that God was known for the wonderful things that He did in these geographical locations, but the question that you and I need to answer is this: Is God known for the great things that He has done inside of you or me. Have we made God known through our transformed lives.

Some churches have as their motto: "Knowing Him and Making Him Known"

Has God's reputation improved in the eyes of the people around you since you have gotten saved? Are you making God look good?

*"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." (Titus 2:9-10)*

## II The Recognition of God Power is Praised (vs. 4 – 10)

*"Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey." (Psalm 76:4)*

*"The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep: and none of the men of might have found their hands." (Psalm 76:5)*

*"At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep." (Psalm 76:6)*

*"Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?" (Psalm 76:7)*

"No one can know the true grace of God," wrote A. W. Tozer, "who has not first known the fear of God" (*The Root of the Righteous*, p. 38).<sup>1</sup>

*"Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still," (Psalm 76:8)*

*"When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah." (Psalm 76:9)*

*"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." (Psalm 76:10)*

According to verses 8 through 10, God's judgments accomplish at least three purposes: they bring glory to God as they reveal His justice and holiness; they punish the wicked for their evil deeds; and they bring salvation to those who trust the Lord. (See 72:4.)<sup>2</sup>

## III The Reimbursement for God's Protection is Paid

*"Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared." (Psalm 76:11)*

*"He shall cut off the spirit of princes: he is terrible to the kings of the earth." (Psalm 76:12)*

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., p. 248). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., p. 249). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

If this psalm is in fact referring historically to God's rescue of Jerusalem from the mighty Assyrian army, it must have been the case that God's people made all kinds of promises to God. The psalmist is now telling them to pay what they promised.

You may not have made a promise to God in the heat of an emergency, but if you have promised God anything, you had better keep your promise.

All of us need to demonstrate our appreciation for what God has done for us.

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)*

We show our appreciation for God by living a separated life.

We show our appreciation for God by surrendering to His will.

We show our appreciation for God by serving Him and serving others.

We show our appreciation for God by winning souls to Christ.

We show our appreciation for God by giving to His causes.

We show our appreciation for God by praising and glorifying His name.