

Rhema Christian Center  
Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study  
December 2022  
Willie Bryant

Psalms 76 NKJ

**Psalm 76** To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

**Author....** Designated as one of Asaph Psalms. Asaph was the “great singer and musicians of David and Solomon’s era”

Some commentators indicate that this Psalm was written on the occasion of a miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem (called Salem) from Sennacherib.

**Brief Background....**

**In this Psalm, Asaph praised God for His power, He had destroyed the wicked and delivered the godly**

This Psalm is “probably God’s judgement of Assyrian army as recorded in Isaiah 37 Sennacherib’s officers had boasted of their king and his conquests and their idols. When the northern Kingdom of Israel was taken by the Assyrians in 722 BC, many godly people moved into Judah, where a descendant of David was on the throne and true priests ministered in God’s appointed temple (2Chron, 11:13-17). Asaph named both Israel and Judah even though “the Kingdom had been divided politically, there was still only one covenant people in the sight of the Lord. (Warren Wiersbe)

**REFLECTIONS:** “Judah was the Southern Kingdom; Israel was the Northern Kingdom.” Judah is the region of Israel where Jerusalem is located. Israel is the Nation Salem and Zion refer to Jerusalem (Gen 14:18)

**Vs 1 In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.**

**2 In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.**

Known in verse 1 is to Know (Hb gada) conveys the concept, relationship, of knowing by personal experience, the name, character or reputation.

“God dwelled among the people. “God’s people (the Israelites) knew Him by personal experiences as the God who repeatedly brought victory into their lives.”

God’s name was great (among His people) in Judah and Jerusalem...” but it needed to be magnified among the neighboring nations.”

Psalms 47:1-2 EASY says “People from every nation, clap your hands together. Shout aloud to God, with the sound of happy songs. The Lord, the Most High God, is wonderful. He is the great King who rules over the whole earth.”

### **3 There He broke the arrows of the bow, The shield and sword of battle. *Selah.***

King Hezekiah, the Prophet Isaiah, and the elders of Judah in Jerusalem all listened to God's word and put their faith in the Lord... Isaiah 37:35 NASB 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'

***"Hezekiah prayed to God about King Sennacherib"***

***2Kings 19:20 CSB "Then Isaiah's son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "The Lord, the God of Israel says, 'I have heard your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria.'***

***2KINGS19:32 Therefore, this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: He will not enter this city, shoot an arrow here, come before it with a shield, or build up a siege ramp against it. He will go back the way he came, and he will not enter this city. This is the Lord's declaration. I will defend this city and rescue it for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."***

***VS 35 That night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down one hundred eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up the next morning — there were all the dead bodies! So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and left. He returned home and lived in Nineveh."* 2 Kings 19 CSB2**

*This shows that God's rebuke can destroy any political or military power that rise up against His chosen people.*

***"Isaiah 54:17 ERV says People will make weapons to fight against you, but their weapons will not defeat you. Some people will say things against you, but anyone who speaks against you will be proved wrong." The Lord says, "That is what my servants get! They get the good things that come from me, their Lord."***

***VS 4 You are more glorious and excellent Than the mountains of prey.***

***Then the mountains of prey.*** — This is an address to Mount *Zion*. Thou art more illustrious and excellent than all the mountains of prey, i.e., where wild beasts wander, and prey on those that are more helpless than themselves. Zion was the place where GOD *dwelt*; the other mountains were the *abode of wild beasts*. (Clark's Commentary.)

***Isaiah chapter 2:2 NLT the word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Juda and Jerusalem***

***"In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship."***

Gill's Exposition noted the "mountain of Zion or the church of Christ, his kingdom and interest should in the latter day be more glorious and excellent than all other mountains or kingdoms.

**VS 5 The stouthearted were plundered; They have sunk into their sleep; And none of the mighty men have found the use of their hands.**

The word **stouthearted** refers to being bold, stubborn, brave, fearless, tough, strong, courageous, daring. **Plundered** refers to take goods by force as in war: To take by force or wrongfully steal, loot. (M. Dictionary)

“The army that dared to rise up against Israel was filled with stouthearted men”. Stouthearted may mean that they were determined, valiant warriors, or hardhearted and rebellious against God.

But the God of Glory, wiped out the Assyrian soldiers. Instead of the Assyrian army plundering Jerusalem, Jerusalem plundered the Assyrian. God not only put an end to those soldiers and their horses, He also took their weapons. (See vs 3 above) and put fear of the Lord in their leaders verse 12.)

**Vs 6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Both the chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep.**

One commentary noted: “the Chariot and horse represent the military power of nations. Chariot may refer to the driver of the chariot.”

In “scripture death is often signified by sleep.”

Isaiah 46:12-13 CSB says “Listen to me, you hardhearted, far removed from justice: I am bringing my justice near; it is not far away, and my salvation will not delay. I will put salvation in Zion, my splendor in Israel.”

**Commentaries** on Isaiah 46:12 says: Righteousness is parallel to salvation and denotes the manifestation of Jehovah righteousness in the deliverance of Israel.

**The Passion translation** noted: “My deliverance will not be delayed, for I will set my salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

God will do what need to be done, including bring salvation to His people, and restoring them, for Israel was/is His glory.

God wants us to know Him. Jesus fought the battle with the devil on the cross, and won the victory for us. We do not need physical weapons for this war.

**VS 7 You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry?**

To be feared (Godly fear) “the only fear that is permissible is the fear of the Lord. It is a manifestation of His judgement “which is supreme and absolute.” Matthew 10:28 CEV says “Don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they cannot harm your soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell.

Fear in this verse is not dread. It means we must reverence God with awe, the respect that belongs to God alone. The majesty of the Lord is to be revered because of His greatness and goodness;

We should love the Lord, rejoice and worship Him with reverence.

### **Vs 8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still,**

Psalms 46:10 kjv says “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

When Sennacherb's army blasphemed God and came up against God's people, God wiped out the Assyrian army. “The world heard from heaven.” The silent execution of Sennacherb's preached the power and judgement of God.”

In response to this supernatural demonstration of wrath, the people could only fear and be still or silent.

### **V9 When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth. *Selah***

*This verse is possible speaking of those who are oppressed that humbled themselves and received the Lord into their lives. The Lord loves those who have a humble heart, those who have repented and been saved.*

#### ***A few reasons God arises in judgement:***

- *God arises in judgement to save the meek or the oppressed in the earth.*
- *To bring salvation to those who trust the Lord.*
- *He arises in judgement to stir people to praise Him.*

### **10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath, you shall gird Yourself.**

The meaning of man's wrath is unclear. “It may refer to the cruelty of evil people toward others.

God's wrath is a deterrent to evil doers. Seeing God's wrath “keeps some people from following through with their wicked intentions. **Example** God's judgment on the Assyrian army” those who survived God's wrath arose the next morning to find 185,000 dead corpses scattered across the Assyrian camp.,” they retreated in terror.”

Witnessing God's restraint of them from following through with the evil they had planned against Israel.

Commentators are unsure the meaning “with the remainder wrath you shall gird yourself. Some commentators state it probable mean “God has wrath, and stands ready to use it against other evil doe

**Merriam-Webster Dictionary** defines gird to prepare oneself for action. To encircle or bind with a flexible band (such as a belt) In this verse gird yourself means prepare ...encircle yourself with rejoicing, celebrating the goodness of the Lord, and all the great things he has done. (In verse 9 He delivered all the depressed).

What has God delivered you from?

**11 Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay *them*; Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared.**

The Palmist here called on God’s people of Israel to recommit themselves to the fear of God, that is, to obeying, serving, and submitting to Him. Also, pay their vows to the Lord and fulfill all the promises they had made to God when they sought His deliverance.

The Psalmist here also call on the surrounding nations to **submit to God**. “They should bring Him presents or tributes as a statement of their fear of Him.

**V12 He shall cut off the spirit of princes;**

: “that is, He will cut down their pride, he will break them down.” **Easy English Bible notes** “Breaks the spirit” means stop them from wanting to fight”

EXAMPLE, Sennacherib, the mightiest King of his day suddenly retreated from the bloodiest Battlefield out of fear of the Lord. His escape displayed that God had broken his spirit and humbled Assisi’s arrogant ‘king.

**Vs 12 b He is awesome to the kings of the earth.**

The” prophetic message is evident: the day will come when the princes and kings of the earth will either bow down to Jesus Christ or be destroyed by Him in judgment”. (Warren Wiersbe)

Jesus Christ is king of Kings and Lord of Lord, (Interesting reads ...Revelation 19:11-16; Psalms 2:6-12’)

**AMAN**

Sources used:

NKJV ; KJV

Blue letter Bible

The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible

Be Worshipful by Warren W. Wiersbe

Bible Study tools

Webster Dictionary Wikipedia Internet