

Psalm 76

This Psalm praises the Creator God for His awesome power.

It was most likely written to celebrate the defeat of Sennacherib's army after he invaded Judah, [2 Kings 18:13 to 2 Kings 19:37].

Psalms 76:1-9 [New King James] *“In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion. There He broke the arrows of the bow, the shield and sword of battle. Selah. You are more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey. The stouthearted were plundered; they have sunk into their sleep; and none of the mighty men have found the use of their hands. At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep. You, Yourself, are to be feared; and who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry? You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still, when God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth. Selah.”*

These are self-revealing acts of the Creator God that become the personal knowledge and faith of the people.

The phrases alternate between truth about God's acts and a description of His supremacy.

God's glorious majesty, [verse 4].

God's supremacy over all the strength of humanity, [verse 5].

God's powerful word of rebuke and supremacy over human weapons, [verse 6].

God's awesomeness and supremacy over every imaginable foe, [verse 7].

God's heavenly authority and supremacy over the whole earth in the interests of justice and mercy, [verses 8 and 9].

Psalms 76:10 [New King James] *“Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; with the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself.”*

God uses human anger to serve His purpose.

For example, the pharaoh of Egypt refused to free the Hebrew slaves, [Exodus 5:1-2] and thus allowed God to work mighty miracles for His people, [Exodus 11:9].

The Creator God turns the tables on evildoers, [Proverbs 26:27]. Also He brings glory to Himself from the foolishness of those who deny His existence or revolt against Him.

God's wrath expressed in His judgement brings praise from those who have been delivered.

Psalms 76:11 [New King James] *“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 only proper response to such a Creator God is integrity, devotion and reverence.

Psalms 76:12 [New King James] *“He shall cut off the spirit of princes; He is awesome to the kings of the earth.”*

As so often in Psalms the Psalmist projects what is happening to his generation into the future and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to take over rulership on this earth, [Revelation 19:11-21; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13].