

Psalm 75:1-10
We are Grateful that God is the Judge

Introduction: This is in book 3 of the Psalms. It is a psalm of corporate (as opposed to individual) thanksgiving or gratitude. In times of seeming anarchy (cf. Ps. 74), believers must focus on God's certain, future judgment. God WILL set things right. We live in fallen world, facing injustice seemingly every day. Where will we turn to find genuine justice?

God as Judge is not simply an OT concept; it permeates the entire Bible. **OT:** Gen. 18:25; Eccles. 12:14. **NT:** Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 12:23; 1 Pet. 4:5

Superscription: *For the music director. Set to "Do Not Destroy."* (cf. Pss. 57-59) *A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.*

1) We should be grateful for God's certain judgment—75:1-3

a) People express gratitude:

i) ¹ *We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!*

ii) Why? *For ...*

(1) The What: *Your name is near.*

(2) How is God's name near?: *People recount Your wondrous works.* (cf. Exo. 15:11)

b) God speaks of His sovereignty:

i) To judge at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way: ² *"When I select the appointed time, I will judge justly.*

ii) To judge with the appropriate power: ³ *When the earth and all its inhabitants dissolve, it is I who steadies its pillars."* *Selah.*

iii) Principles:

(1) God alone possesses the perfect knowledge, wisdom, and authority to function as the perfect Judge.

(2) It is God who prevents the world from being overrun by chaos. (NET)

(3) The LORD keeps everything in balance; ultimately he will remove the things that are always throwing life out of balance. (Ross)

2) We should heed the warning concerning God's certain judgment—75:4-8

a) Sinners are warned not to show off who is the Top Dog—75:4-5

i) Don't be self-honoring: ⁴ *"I said to the boastful ones, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked ones, 'Do not lift up/honor your horn (power, ability).*

ii) Don't be insolent toward God: ⁵ *Do not lift up/honor your horn on high or speak with an unrestrained neck.'*

(1) They refuse God's yoke on their neck.

iii) It is easy for the sinner to arrogantly assume that victory has been/will be achieved. (NET)

b) Sinners are given the explanation for the warning—75:6-7

- i) Honor does not ultimately come from human alliances: *6 For lifting up/honor does not come from the east or from the west, and not from the wilderness/desert hills.*
 - ii) God is the only, ultimate Judge: *7 But it is God who is executing judgment:*
 - iii) God's judgment is not random: *He puts down one and lifts up/honors another.*
 - (1) Cf. 1 Sam. 2:7; Luke 1:52
 - c) Sinners are shown what God's judgment looks like—75:8
 - i) God's judgment stands prepared: *8 For in the hand of Yahweh there is a cup, and it is full of wine mixed with spices, and He pours from it.*
 - ii) No one is exempt from God's judgment: *Surely all the wicked of the earth will empty it, drinking its dregs/sediment."*
 - (1) The psalmist pictures God as forcing the wicked to gulp down an intoxicating drink that will leave them stunned and vulnerable. (NET)
- 3) We should praise God for His certain judgment—75:9-10**
- a) The psalmist determines to praise God, in contrast to the wicked:
 - i) *9 **But I** (emphatic) will make known/conspicuous forever,*
 - ii) *I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.*
 - b) God reveals His righteous judgment of individuals:
 - i) *10 "And I will cut off all (emphatic) the horns of the wicked,*
 - (1) None will escape the devastation and ruin that God will bring on those who have not submitted to him. (Ross)
 - ii) *but the horns of the righteous ones will be lifted up/honored."*
 - iii) God has the last word, in the psalm and in life.
- 4) Things we need to remember:**
- a) This psalm does not describe a deity who is aloof, uncaring, and uninvolved with his creation. (Feinberg, No One Like Him)
 - b) The revelation of God that emerges is that of the all-powerful Lord of heaven and earth ruling by his set plans; he will ultimately destroy the wicked and save the righteous, demonstrating that he is the righteous judge of the whole earth. (Ross)
 - c) Because God has set a time to destroy the wicked of the world and exalt the righteous, the righteous should praise him for his mighty works and warn the world of the coming judgment. (Ross)