

Psalm 76:1-12
Yahweh's Awe-Inspiring Power

Introduction: Sailhamer notes: "With **Ps 73**, he [God] is the God whose dwelling place is Zion, the site of the temple. With **Ps 74**, he is the God who comes in judgment upon those who have oppressed the godly. With **Ps 75**, he is the God who acts at his appointed time and thus is the one who is to be feared [76:11]."

Many people think the background to this psalm is 2 Kings 19. Even the LXX indicates this in its title.

Sometimes we get uncomfortable with God's wrath and feel like we need to apologize for it or to be excused for believing in it.

1) The PLACE where Yahweh manifests His presence for worship—76:1-3

- Note the synonyms for Jerusalem: Judah, Israel, Salem, Zion
- Note the synonyms for manifesting His presence: He is known, His name is great, His shelter, His dwelling place, place where He destroyed the weapons of war.
- a) God graciously condescends to allow Himself to be known—76:1
 - i) ¹ *In Judah God is known; in Israel His name is great.*
(1) God has chosen Israel to be the repository of His name (1 Kings 5:5; Neh. 1:9; Mal. 1:11)
- b) God graciously condescends to make His visible presence known—76:2
 - i) ² *In Salem is His shelter [sok], and His hiding place / lair [meonah] is in Zion.*
- c) God graciously condescends to defeat His enemies—76:3
 - i) ³ *There He destroyed the arrows of the bow, the shield and sword of battle.*
(1) This has occurred historically and will occur prophetically.
- d) *Selah.*

2) The AWESOMENESS AS Yahweh manifests His presence for worship—76:4-9

- a) God's awesomeness is demonstrated in His majestic authority—76:4-6
 - i) Intimidating: ⁴ *You are resplendent, majestic, from the mountains of prey.*
 - ii) Victorious: ⁵ *The stouthearted were plundered; they slept their sleep, and all the men of valor have not found the use of their hands.*
 - iii) Authoritative: ⁶ *At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider / chariot and horse lay asleep.*
- b) God's awesomeness demonstrated in His just wrath—76:7-9
 - i) God's wrath: ⁷ *But You, You, (emphatic) are to be feared [yare]; and who can stand before You in Your anger?*
 - ii) God's justice: ⁸ *From heaven You pronounced judgment / a verdict. The earth feared [yare] and was still ⁹ when God rose up for justice, to rescue all the oppressed of the Land.*
- c) *Selah.*

3) The worldwide PRAISE because Yahweh manifests His presence for worship—76:10-12

- a) Eventual praise: ¹⁰ *Indeed the wrath of man will praise You; You will clothe Yourself with the wrath (plural of amplification) that remains.*
 - i) God's judgment against humanity brings God praise because it reveals His power and majesty. (NET)
- b) Deliberate praise (obey these commands):
 - i) Praise from Israel: ¹¹ Make your^{pl} vows to Yahweh your^{pl} God, and pay / fulfill them;
 - ii) Praise from Gentiles: Let all who are around Him bring tribute to Him who ought to be feared [yare],
 - (1) ¹² *He who cuts off the spirit of princes;*
 - (2) *who is to be feared [yare] by the kings of the earth.*
 - iii) Remember this theme in both Old and New Testaments: Is. 45:23; Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:10

4) Things to be remembered (think, feel, do):

- a) God's terrifying power and sovereign majesty have been displayed throughout history whenever He has judged the wicked. Thus it will be in the future.
- b) God's wrath is presently active toward all those who oppose Him.
- c) God displays His wrath to warn the world of the coming final judgment.
 - i) Because no one can escape the judgment, the ungodly would be wise to submit to him and escape the judgment while there is still opportunity.
 - ii) C. S. Lewis said it this way: "Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms."