

Dr. C. I. Scofield said you may classify the Psalms into six categories:

- 1) There are Psalms that are designed to be instructional Psalms;
- 2) There are Psalms that are designed to be prayer Psalms;
- 3) There are Psalms that are designed to be praise Psalms;
- 4) There are Psalms that are designed to be thanksgiving Psalms;
- 5) There are Psalms that are designed to be Messianic Psalms;
- 6) There are Psalms that are designed to be historical Psalms.

When Dr. Scofield analyzed this Psalm 75, he classified it as one of the instructional Psalms (*Scofield Reference Bible*, p. 803).

Now being an instructional Psalm, we may conclude that it is a Psalm designed to give us instruction on a specific topic. **There is one topic in the Bible that not too many people like to hear about or think about and that topic is the topic of the judgment of God.**

Judgment is a key theme of the Bible. The truth is judgment is something that will happen to every single individual. Now those who are right with God have no problem with this theme. Those who love the Lord and love the Word of God and are trying to govern their lives in a righteous way do not try and avoid this theme. God's people do realize that there will be an intimidation to judgment; but they do not deny it or downplay it because they realize that this is a very important theme of Scripture.

Now as we come to Psalm 75, we may observe from the superscription that this Psalm is an "Altashheth" Psalm. **This particular word in Hebrew means "do not destroy."** So this is a Psalm that does deal with the subject of destructive judgment; but for the righteous the theme is that they will not be destroyed.

This Psalm was a Psalm of Asaph, and also a song of Asaph, which means it was a song to be specifically sung in corporate worship. So this Psalm was not only to be taught, but sung. Now clearly what was to be communicated by the Psalm is that God will not destroy the righteous but He will destroy the arrogant and unrighteous. **In Psalm 74 the sanctuary was desecrated and now in Psalm 75 it is payback time.** God's people were to think about this, study this and sing about this.

So judgment was to be a critical theme of instruction that was even to be sung at corporate worship services. **It is clear that God's people were not only to sing about His mercy and grace and love, but also of His ferocious judgment that will come against those who are not right with Him.**

**WHEN GOD FINALLY BRINGS HIS JUDGMENT AGAINST THE ARROGANT AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS, THE RIGHTEOUS WILL THANK GOD AND PRAISE GOD BECAUSE THEY WILL BE FINALLY LIFTED UP AND EXALTED.**

There are times when those who are right with God can feel like such losers. There are times when righteous people are standing for and promoting righteous things and they appear to be such a failure.

We look into a world of wicked people who are arrogant, powerful and prosperous. They appear to be successful and happy. **But at the judgment of God that will all change.** There will come a day when God's faithful people will be exalted.

As a result, the righteous will thank God and praise God because not only are they not destroyed, they are lifted up. That is the theme of Psalm 75.

Now this Psalm breaks down nicely into five parts:

**PART #1** – God is thanked and praised because His judgment is near. **75:1**

We may observe from **verse 1** that two times for emphasis sake we read “we give thanks.” The reason why God is thanked so intensely is because His “name is near.” What that means is that **God is about to make His name known by wondrous works of judgment.**

When we look through the book of Revelation, it is clear that God will literally display His power with tremendous displays of judgmental works. Men will be talking about the awesome power and judgment of God from which they cannot flee or hide.

**Now notice the change in pronouns “we” to “men.” God's people are the “we” and the “men” are not God's people.** So on the one hand you have God's people giving thanks to God; but the men who are experiencing the judgment of God are not thanking God, but they are talking about His wondrous works and His awesome power.

This verse makes it very clear that God's judgment will display His awesome power. There will come a day when every knee will bow before God and every tongue will confess the truth about God's awesome power and His Sovereign Son. When that day finally gets here, those right with God will be thanking God and praising God and those who are not will still be testifying of the truth. God will be glorified in all of the earth, even by those who are not in His family.

**PART #2** – God has selected an appointed time for judgment. **75:2-3**

At times it may appear as though God is inactive and isn't going to do anything about the evil and corruption in the world. But we certainly learned from the book of Habakkuk that is not true. God will judge and He has appointed a specific time for His judgment.

I read a story about an attorney who borrowed a man's horse and the horse died. He asked the owner of the horse if he would take a note redeemable on judgment day. The man appealed to a judge and when the attorney appeared before the judge, he said, “this is judgment day.” There will come an unexpected moment and a specified time and God will judge.

There are three specific facts revealed here:

**Fact #1** - God's judgment will come at God's appointed time. **75:2a**

In Hebrew, the pronoun "I" is emphatic. God is emphatically stressing the fact that He will judge and He has a time set to judge. Just because there appears to us to be a time lapse between the evil and the judgment does not mean God is indifferent to the evil. In fact, God has established a specific time for His judgment.

Judgment is not usually immediate and thank God it is not. If it were, none of us would be here. God grants people time to respond, but He has a specific appointed moment when it will be too late to respond. Judgment is not immediate but it is certain. He selects the time of judgment; we do not.

**Fact #2** - God's judgment will be a judgment of equity. **75:2b**

What this means is that God's judgment will be straightforward and upright. The judgment of God will be straight, level and right. It will be exactly what is deserved. There will be no partiality; but will be an even judgment (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 375).

**Fact #3** - God's judgment will be against the earth. **75:3**

God will majestically display His judgment on this earth. He does His judgmental work on earth, not in eternity. There is a graphic description of what God will do in Isaiah 24:17-23.

Now God is the One who made the earth and He has the right to destroy it. He made a promise in Genesis that He would never again destroy the world by flood; but He did not say He would not destroy it. The next time He destroys it, it will be by fire (II Peter 3:10). This will be the real "global warming" that will turn out being "global burning." When this occurs, no politician will be able to do anything about it except experience it, if he is not right with God.

After saying that, Asaph said, "Selah" which means stop and think about this. Stop and think about the fact that God will, in fact, destroy the earth and the people in it who are not right with Him.

**PART #3** – God brings His judgment after many warnings against the wicked. **75:4-5**

God has warned time and time again through His Word and through His judgments that proud, arrogant, wicked people who use their mouths to boast and who have exalted themselves over the people of God, will be severely judged.

What we learn from **verse 4** is that God has warned evil people by His Word. In fact, when people hear the Word they may actually take it as "I said."

Whenever a proud, arrogant, lofty politician has used his mouth and office to arrogantly speak against God, His Word or His people and has heard warnings of the coming judgment of God, that one has heard the “Voice of God.”

Time and time again God has warned the political leaders to humble themselves before Him. He has warned them not to speak against Him, His Word or His people and those who do will experience the ferocious judgment of God.

**PART #4** – God brings His judgment and no one will be able to stop it. **75:6-8**

There are three observations we may make about this:

**Observation #1** - When God’s judgment comes, there will be no help from any direction that can prevent it. **75:6**

God’s judgment will humble the most arrogant and proud and no one will be able to prevent it. No help will arise from anyone who will be able to thwart the judgment of God. Make no mistake about this, God hates the proud. Pride is a terrible thing. We often sing the words “I pour contempt on all my pride” and then never really do. The truth is we have nothing within ourselves for which we may be proud.

**Observation #2** - When God’s judgment comes, one will be put down and another will be exalted. **75:7**

God will be the judge and when He judges, the theme will be judgment. I Samuel 2:6-7 says, “The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.”

Wicked arrogant people who have so dominated and intimidated will be broken at the judgment of God and the righteous will be exalted. **At judgment time there will be demotion and promotion.**

It may appear as if God’s people are being pushed and shoved and intimidated and dominated by proud and arrogant people who do not know God, but in fact mock Him. There will come a day when this will all be reversed.

**Observation #3** - When God’s judgment comes, the world will drink the cup of the full wrath of God. **75:8**

God’s apocalyptic judgment will leave men dazed as if in a drunken stupor. All of the wicked will drink the full and foaming wrath of God. There is a vicious angry side to God. In those nailed scarred hands of God there is grace; but there is also wrath. God’s hands offer either one.

**PART #5** – When God’s judgment comes, God’s people will praise God. **75:9-10**

God’s people will praise God for His judgments because when His judgment comes, the righteous will be exalted and the wicked will be cut down and cut off.

**PRACTICAL LESSONS:**

- 1. The way things presently appear are not the way things permanently are.**
- 2. God judges in His time, not our time.**
- 3. God uses people who know and communicate His Word to speak to this world and warn of His judgment.**
- 4. The theme of God’s judgment causes people right with God to praise God and those who are not right with God, to mock God and hate God.**