

Psalms 75

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 75 - and as we make our way to the 75th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - this is the third - of 11 consecutive songs - written by a seer named Asaph.

It's also interesting to note that this is the 4th song in this book that is set to something called - AL-taschith...

...which is translated - "Do Not Destroy."

Now - it should be noted that scholars have not reached an agreement regarding the reason for this prescription.

Many believe that this refers to an ancient song - whose tune was to be used in singing these 4 Psalms.

And while King David was the author of the first three songs set to the tune - Do Not Destroy...

...the seer - Asaph was the author of the fourth song - which seems to've been set to the same tune.

And as we consider the lyrical content of this Psalm - we'll soon see that...

...Asaph wrote this song - in order to express his gratitude to God - regarding His righteous judgment.

And as Asaph looked forward to the day when the wicked would be punished - and the righteous exalted...

...he proclaimed the praises of the One Who would accomplish this victory - on behalf of His people.

And listen - this song is not only about the victory that the God of Israel would secure for the apple of His eye...

...but - this Psalm of thanksgiving also anticipates the victory that our Savior will secure...

...on the day when Christ Jesus returns - and judges the quick - and the dead.

And knowing that those who trust in Him - are already resting in the victory that He secured on the cross...

...we too should sing this song with a heart that is filled with gratitude...

...as we rejoice in knowing that the righteous judge of heaven and earth...

...will not destroy those who trust in Him.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 75th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Asaph writes...

Psa 75:1 To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!

For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

Psa 75:2 "When I choose the proper time,
I will judge uprightly.

Psa 75:3 The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved;
I set up its pillars firmly. Selah

Here in the first stanza of this song - we find Asaph - expressing his gratitude to God.

And he began by giving thanks - to the One Who has already accomplished wondrous works.

That phrase - wondrous works - found there in verse 1 - were translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in reference to the marvelous - and miraculous works of God.

I like the way that John Darby rendered verse 1 - he put it like this...

Psa 75:1 Unto thee we give thanks, O God, we give thanks; and thy name is near: thy marvelous works declare it.

From this - we can see that - Asaph was giving thanks to the name of the Lord - because of his Marvelous works.

And with this as our focus - let's take a moment to consider the marvelous - and miraculous works...

...that declare the glory of God's name.

This begins with the creation of the Universe - which reveals the infinite power of God.

It's in Genesis chapter 1 - where we learn that God created the universe - and everything in it - from nothing.

And as we consider the omnipotent power - of the God Who spoke forth the universe into existence...

...that the Lord revealed Himself as Yahweh Elohim - in the summary of the creation account.

It's in Genesis chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where Moses writes...

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Gen 2:4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh Elohim made the earth and the heavens...

Here in the second chapter of the Bible - we find Moses - connecting the dots between the incredible work of creation...

...and the name of the creator - which is Yahweh Elohim.

And as we consider this marvelous works of the world in which we live...

...we too should Give thanks to God.

I like the way that King David put it - in 1st Chronicles chapter 29 - where he declared...

1Ch 29:10b "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

1Ch 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.

1Ch 29:12 Both riches and honor come from You,
And You reign over all.

In Your hand is power and might;
In Your hand it is to make great
And to give strength to all.

1Ch 29:13 "Now therefore, our God,
We thank You and praise Your glorious name.

Those who consider the greatness of our Creator - will be filled with gratitude...

...which leads us to sing the praises of our omnipotent God.

And listen - this is just the beginning of His marvelous - and miraculous works.

I like the short list of miracles that Paul presented - in Hebrews chapter 11 - it's beginning at verse 29 - where he declared...

Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

Heb 11:33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Heb 11:34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Here in these verses - we find Paul - reminding the Hebrew believers...

...about the way that the Lord protected those who placed their faith in Him.

And in each of these examples - we can see how the Lord saved His people...

...from the enemies who were trying to destroy them.

And it's for this reason that Asaph gave thanks to the God - Who was always there for them.

Notice with me again - there at verse 1 - where he declared...

Psa 75:1b We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!
For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

Asaph wasn't proclaiming the praises of a God Who was distant - and absent.

No - instead - he was giving thanks to the God - Who was near - and present.

He was the God Who led the people with a pillar of cloud by day - and a pillar of fire by night.

He was the God Who provided them with water from a rock - and mana from heaven.

He was the God - Who raised up judges and kings to lead them.

And He was the God Who called prophets to rebuke them.

I like the way that the sons of Korah put it - in the 46th Psalm - it's verse 1 where they declared...

Psa 46:1 God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Christian - listen - Asaph wasn't proclaiming the praises of a God Who was absent - and distant...

...no - instead - he was worshiping the God Who is a very present help in our time of trouble.

And it's for this reason that we should give thanks to the One Who has assured us that...

...He will never leave us - nor forsake us.

At the same time - we can also take comfort in knowing that the Lord will judge the world - at the proper time.

Let's consider how Asaph put it - here in our text tonight - look with me again - there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 75:2 “When I choose the proper time,
I will judge uprightly.

Psa 75:3 The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved;
I set up its pillars firmly. Selah

Here in these verses - we find Asaph - presenting us with the
promise that the Lord revealed to him.

And with that - I should remind you that it was in our study of
the 74th Psalm - where Asaph asked...

Psa 74:10 O God, how long will the adversary reproach?
Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?

As we consider this question - it seems to me that the
Lord answered this question...

...by assuring Asaph that He will judge the world - at
the proper time.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Acts chapter 17 - it's beginning at
verse 24 - where he declared...

Act 17:24 “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is
Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Act 17:25 “Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He
needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Act 17:26 “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to
dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their
preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Act 17:27 “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they
might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one
of us;

Act 17:28 “for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also
some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’

Act 17:29 “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought
not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone,
something shaped by art and man's devising.

Act 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Act 17:31 “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Christian - listen - God has appointed a day - on which He will judge the world in righteousness.

And according to Paul - the proof of this is found in the physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus provides us with the proof - that there's coming a day...

...when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

Paul confirmed this - in his second letter to Pastor Timothy - it's chapter 4 verse 1 - where he declared...

2Ti 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

When the Lord Jesus returns - He will judge the living and the dead - as He separates the sheep from the goats.

And while it's true that His sheep will enter into everlasting life...

...it's also true that the goats will go away into everlasting punishment.

And it's for this reason that Asaph warned the wicked - about the day of judgment.

Let's consider how he put it - here in the 75th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 4 - where Asaph declared...

Psa 75:4 “I said to the boastful, ‘Do not deal boastfully,’
And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn.
Psa 75:5 Do not lift up your horn on high;
Do not speak with a stiff neck.’ ”
Psa 75:6 For exaltation comes neither from the east
Nor from the west nor from the south.
Psa 75:7 But God is the Judge:
He puts down one,
And exalts another.

Here in these verses - we find Asaph - encouraging the boastful to repent before the judge steps into the courtroom.

And just to be clear - that word - boastful - found there in verse 4 - was being used in reference to those...

...who foolishly sing their own praises - rather than the praises of the Lord.

The boastful are those who boast about their sins - like the modern musical artists...

...who sing songs about their sinful escapades.

Asaph not only encouraged the boastful to repent of their boastful ways...

...he also encouraged the wicked - to refrain from lifting up their horn.

That word - horn - found there in verses 4 and 5 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which literally referred to the horns of animals.

And being that the horns of an animal symbolized power and strength...

...ancient kings would often times have crowns made of animal horns.

And it's for this reason that the Hebrew word rendered - horn...

...is the origin of our English word crown.

With all of this in mind - it seems to me that Asaph was rebuking the wicked rulers of this world...

...who were exalting themselves - above the Almighty Authority of the Lord.

And it's here in the second stanza of this song - where Asaph reminded them...

...where true exaltation comes from.

Notice with me again - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 75:5 Do not lift up your horn on high;
Do not speak with a stiff neck.' ”

Psa 75:6 For exaltation comes neither from the east
Nor from the west nor from the south.

Psa 75:7 But God is the Judge:
He puts down one,
And exalts another.

Those who are wicked - will exalt themselves as they boast about their own endeavors and successes.

And it's for this reason that Asaph encouraged them to realize that...

...true exaltation doesn't come from the things of this earth.

True exaltation must come from the God - Who exalts some - and puts down others.

And you better believe that the righteous judge
of heaven and earth...

...won't be exalting the wicked.

With this in mind - let's consider the parable that Jesus presented - in
Luke chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 8 - where He declared...

Luk 14:8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do
not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be
invited by him;

Luk 14:9 "and he who invited you and him come and say to you,
'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the
lowest place.

Luk 14:10 "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest
place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you,
'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of
those who sit at the table with you.

Luk 14:11 "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who
humbles himself will be exalted."

Those exalt themselves will eventually be humbled - and the reason
why is because - God rejects those who are proud.

If you wanna make sure that the Lord will exalt you — then
humble yourself in the sight of the Lord...

...and He will lift you up - on the day He decides to exalt
you.

In order to further grasp those point - let's consider the final stanza of this Psalm.

Let's pick up our study of the 75th Psalm - beginning there at verse 8 - where
Asaph declared...

Psa 75:8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup,
And the wine is red;
It is fully mixed, and He pours it out;
Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth
Drain and drink down.

Psa 75:9 But I will declare forever,
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
Psa 75:10 “All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off,
But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.”

Here in the final stanza of this song - we find Asaph - warning the wicked - about the cup of God's wrath.

And just to be clear - the cup of God's wrath is a biblical metaphor for the punishment that God pours out on sinners who won't repent.

One example of this is found in Jeremiah chapter 25 - where the Lord promised to punish the nations...

...by pouring out the cup of His wrath - in the last days.

It's beginning at verse 15 - where the prophet Jeremiah writes...

Jer 25:15 For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it.

Jer 25:16 “And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.”

Jer 25:17 Then I took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD had sent me:

Jer 25:18 Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its princes, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day;

Jer 25:19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people;

Jer 25:20 all the mixed multitude, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (namely, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod);

Jer 25:21 Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon;

Jer 25:22 all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea;

Jer 25:23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in the farthest corners;

Jer 25:24 all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert;

Jer 25:25 all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes;

Jer 25:26 all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

Jer 25:27 “Therefore you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.”’

Jer 25:28 “And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “You shall certainly drink!

Jer 25:29 “For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth,” says the LORD of hosts.’

Here in these verses - we find the Lord - sending the prophet Jeremiah into the nations surrounding Israel...

...and according to these instructions - he would present them with a cup of wine - that represents the wrath of God.

And as they consumed the cup - Jeremiah informed them that they would eventually fall - and rise no more.

Now - as we consider that prophetic promise - it seems to me that this prophecy has yet to be fulfilled.

And it's for this reason that many Bible teachers - including myself...

...believe that this destruction of places like Gaza - Edom - Moab - Egypt - Tyre and Sidon...

...is going to be fulfilled in the future - when the cup of God's wrath is poured out in full.

Proof of my point can be found in Revelation chapter 16 - it's beginning at verse 17 - where John the revelator declared...

Rev 16:17 ...the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

Rev 16:18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Rev 16:19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Rev 16:20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Rev 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Here in these verses - we find the apostle John - describing the day when the 7th Angel...

...will pour out the cup of the wine of the fierceness of God's wrath upon Babylon the great.

It's at that point in time - when the cities of the nations will fall...

...and the fire and brimstone will reign down on those who will not repent of their sins.

And listen - the cup of God's wrath will continue to be poured out on the unrepentant - forever.

Let's consider how the apostle John described it in Revelation chapter 14 it's beginning at verse 9 - where we learn that...

Rev 14:9 ...a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Here in these verses - we find an angel - describing the cup of God's indignation - as everlasting torment...

...which will eventually be poured out on those who worship the beast and his image...

...AND whoever receives the mark of his name.

And as we consider how the smoke of their torment will ascend forever and ever...

...there should be no doubt that the cup of God's wrath will result in everlasting torment.

Thankfully for us - the Lord Jesus received the full cup of wrath - when He died for our sins upon the cross.

And seeing how He has already received the punishment that we deserve...

...we can rejoice in knowing that - there is now no condemnation...

...for those who trust in substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

That being the case - we should sing the praises of the One Who has accomplished this wondrous work.

Let's consider how Asaph put it - here in the final verses of this Psalm - look with me again - there at verse 9 - where he declared...

Psa 75:9 But I will declare forever,
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

Psa 75:10 “All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off,
But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.”

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find Asaph - singing the praises of God.

And just to be clear - he was singing the praises of the God of Jacob.

Being that Jacob was renamed Israel - then - there should be no doubt that...

...Asaph was proclaiming the praises of the God of Israel.

What this means is that - the God of Israel is the same God Who has revealed Himself as Yahweh Elohim - according to His wondrous works.

This not only includes the Creation of the Universe - - and this not only includes the way that He protected Israel from their enemies...

...but this also includes the way that He accomplished our salvation...

...through the substitutionary sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.

And now that He's accomplished the wondrous work of the cross...

...we should give God thanks - as we realize that the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Just to be clear - Asaph wasn't singing about the UT longhorns.

No - instead - he was helping his audience to understand that...

...those who have received the imputation of Christ's righteousness...

...will be exalted - according to the grace of God.

There's coming a day when God will bring down all the power of the wicked...

...and it's at that point in time - when those who trust in Jesus - will be exalted...

...according to the victory that the Lord Jesus secured through His sacrifice.

And as we look forward to that proper time - let's give thanks to God...

...as we celebrate the wondrous works of Yahweh.