

“THE WRATH OF MAN WILL PRAISE GOD”

PSALM 76

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INTRODUCTION

Psalm 2 gives a vivid picture of the wicked of the Earth making an assault upon the Lord and His Christ—attempting to pull him down from His throne. Now, we may think of the fulfillment of that in OT times and the Davidic monarchy, and during the end times—especially at the battle of Armageddon. However, historically, the most important and scripturally relevant example of this is found in the rejection of, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Man and his wicked helper, Satan, did their very best to manifest their anger, animosity, and violent assault upon the Son of God incarnate on earth. However, what did they succeed in accomplishing? Let the early apostles explain: Acts 2:22-23; Acts 3:13-15; 4:10-12; 5:29-32. Such passages give a very clear explanation of the meaning of Psalm 76:10: “For the wrath of man shall praise you.”

The incident of the crucifixion of Christ is the very worst deed that man could ever do, and his worst assault upon Him. We then may learn from this and apply the principles from that to any assault upon God in either OT, NT, or even today!

MAN CANNOT HURT GOD OR HIS PLAN, FOR ‘THE WRATH OF MAN WILL PRAISE HIM.’

As noted last week, the historical incident behind this psalm is most likely the attack by the Assyrian armies upon Judah during the reign of Hezekiah. See the description in II K. 18-19; Is. 36-39. This psalm celebrates that powerful act of God. Compare Psalm 75 that seems to anticipate the same victorious deliverance.

- I. GOD’S NOTORIETY (1-3)
 - A. A great “name” in Judah and Israel—God is “known”, by His mighty deeds (1)
 - B. A powerful dwelling place in Jerusalem (2)
 1. His “thicket” for a shelter and His “lair”
 2. “Salem” (cf. Gen. 14:18) and “Zion”
 - C. A total failure of man’s powerful weaponry (3)
 1. God “breaks” them all.
 2. Arrows (flaming/fiery arrows of the bow), shield, sword, war (all weaponry)
- II. GOD’S AMAZING ACT OF DELIVERANCE (4-6)
 - A. God is “resplendent”—enveloped in light—and Majestic (4)
 - B. From the mountains of prey (4b)
 - The Assyrians who sought to take prey for themselves became prey for God!
 - The mountains speak of all the prominent places connected with Jerusalem—or even the entire land.
 - As a “lion” it was his haunt, no right for the Assyrians.
 - C. Total ruination of the Powerful and stubborn enemies (5-6)
 1. “Stouthearted”—strong and stubborn—are “plundered”, made themselves plunder (5a).
 2. Slumbered their sleep (5b) & “deep sleep” (6b)—picture of final sleep in death.
 3. Could not find their hands—helpless as they lay dying (5c).
 4. “Rebuked” by God—not merely verbal, a powerful action of punishment (6).
 5. “Chariot/cavalry/riders” and “horse/riders” are dead (6b).
- III. THE AWESOMENESS OF GOD (7-9)
 - A. God is to be feared—due to His awesomeness (7a).
 1. Who can stand in His presence—in opposition?

2. "From the time of His anger"—there is no possibility of successfully opposing Him.
- B. The Earth—and all its inhabitants—has "feared."
 1. God, as Judge, caused judgment to be heard (8a).
 2. God arose to judgment (9a).
 3. The earth became quiet/still—all opposition was vain (8b).
- C. The true God-fearers who are delivered through God's deeds are the "humble/meek/oppressed" on earth (9b).

IV. THE HELPLESSNESS OF MAN AGAINST GOD (10)

- A. The wrath of man [in his weakness] will praise Him—it is not a question of if.
- B. God "girds himself with the remnant of 'wraths.'"

V. THE PRAISE OF AND WORSHIP OF GOD BY ALL (11-12)

- A. By God's people: make AND complete/fulfill vows to God (11a).
- B. By surrounding peoples (11b-12)
 1. God is to be feared—bring Him tribute (11).
 2. God "cuts off the "spirit" of princes (12a)—either total despair and submission, or death.
 3. God is feared by the "kings of the earth." (12b).

CONCLUSION

Sometimes the attacks and violence of the world's wicked and evil ones can become fearsome, intimidating, and discouraging. It seems as though the wicked are winning. What are the righteous to do?

Read Psalm 76, understand it, believe it, live without fear and discouragement.

The same God still rules on His throne. Every knee will bow to Him! **Phil. 2:7-11.**