



Psalms 76

7/12/20 PM

## THE TERRIFYING POWER OF GOD

### Introduction:

Superscription: For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A  
Psalm of Asaph, a Song. (LXX adds "for the Assyrian")

**Asaph** (series begins Book III at Psalm 73; 11 psalms + Ps. 50)  
 - a Levite, son of Berechiah (I Chron. 6:39)  
 - an outstanding singer in the time of David, appointed to lead  
 one of the Temple orchestras (I Chron. 5:19; 16:5)  
 - writer of inspired Scripture (Ps. 50; 73-83)  
 - head of a musical dynasty or guild ("the sons of Asaph") that  
 lasted over 500 years (II Chron. 35:15; Neh. 7:44)

### I. GOD IS KNOWN (vs. 1-3)

#### A. Where God Is Known

"Judah...Israel"

"Salem...Zion"

"tabernacle...dwelling place"

#### B. How God Is Known

"known"

"His name is great"

#### C. Why God Is Known

"He broke the flaming arrows"

"shield...sword...weapons of war" (Isaiah 54:17)

### II. GOD IS TO BE REVERED (vs. 4-9)

#### A. Because of His Majesty (vs. 4)

"resplendent" (Psalm 104:1-2)

"more majestic than the mountains of prey"

#### B. Because of His Might (vs. 5-6)

"the stouthearted...warriors"

"plundered...sank into sleep...[not] use his hands"

“At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob...”

“both rider and horse were cast into a dead sleep” (II Kings 19)

C. Because of His Madness (vs. 7-9)

“You, even You, are to be feared”

“Who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?”

Psalm 1:5  
II Kings 22:17; 24:4  
Revelation 6:12-17

“You caused judgment to be heard from heaven”

“the earth feared and was still when God arose to judgment”

“to save all the humble of the earth”

**III. GOD IS TO BE FEARED** (vs. 10-12)

A. By Sinners (vs. 10)

“the wrath of man shall praise You”

“with a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself”

B. By Saints (vs. 11)

“make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them”

“let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him”

“who is to be feared”

C. By Sovereigns (vs. 12)

“He will cut off the spirit of princes”

“He is feared by the kings of the earth”

**Conclusion:**

1) Historically...

- God is renowned for His defense of His chosen dwelling-place - Jerusalem (vs. 1-3)
- God alone is to be feared because He delivers His people when He judges wickedness (vs. 4-9)
- God is to be honored because He dominates any other sovereign (vs. 10-12)

2) Personally...

- Throughout history God has displayed His terrifying majesty in acts of judgment which should lead all men to bow before Him.
- An appreciation of God’s power should produce submission and worship.