

## God is the Judge

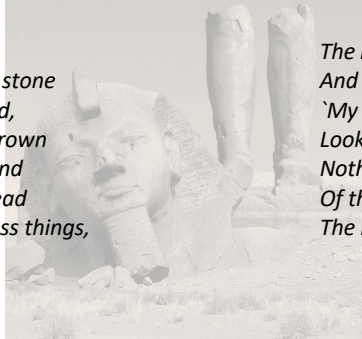
Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 75

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### I. Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

*I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown  
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,*



*The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:  
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!'  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,  
The lone and level sands stretch far away."*

### II. God is the Judge

*Psalm 75 - To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Psalm of Asaph. A Song.*

<sup>1</sup>*We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.*

<sup>2</sup>*"When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. <sup>3</sup>The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly. Selah <sup>4</sup>"I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. <sup>5</sup>Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.' "*

<sup>6</sup>*For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. <sup>7</sup>But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. <sup>8</sup>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.*

<sup>9</sup>*But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. <sup>10</sup>"All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."*

#### A. Thanksgiving to God the Upright Judge (1)

This is a psalm of corporate thanksgiving for God's "*wondrous works*" – His works in which He \_\_\_\_\_ His enemies and \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

#### B. God's Appointed Judgment (2-5)

God's wondrous works reveal His eternal purpose which He works out in history. God knows precisely what He is doing and works His purposes in history according to His eternal plan. And though it may seem that the *earth* itself and *all its inhabitants* be destroyed, yet God upholds His just and righteous order. Men and nations cannot topple the eternal laws that God has woven into the world – into creation itself and into human societies.

#### C. The Nature of God's Judgment (6-8 cf. Jer 25:15-16)

The third stanza explains why the boastful and the wicked should give up their ways and look to God in faith: exaltation and humiliation come not from any human source but from God.

<sup>15</sup>*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. <sup>16</sup>And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them."* (Jer 25:15-16)

#### D. Praise to the God of Jacob (9-10)

We should respond in faith: God will lift up the righteous and bring down the wicked.

### III. Dealing with God's Judgment

A. Do you love God's Justice? (cf. Is 53:10; Ps 37:27-29; Phil 2:7)

I fear that we are often uncomfortable with God's \_\_\_\_\_. Praise God's mercy? Absolutely. But His justice? Not so sure. This is where the psalms help us. They center us on the beauty and glory of God's justice. Advent too reminds us how deeply the Eternal Son of God loved the justice of God. Hence, if we follow Him, then we will love God's justice as well. "*Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!*" (Ex 15:21)

B. Do you praise God's Righteous Judgments? (Ps 98:7-9; Pr 17:15)

One sign that you love God's \_\_\_\_\_, is that you will be unable to restrain yourself from praising His righteous judgments. C.S. Lewis writes in his *Reflections on the Psalms* (111):

*The world reverberates with every kind of praise, "lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favourite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favourite game—praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars... I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with..."*

Do you see in God's righteous judgments something lovely and wonderful? Something that brightens your eyes and makes your heart sing?

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup>For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. <sup>49</sup>For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. <sup>50</sup>And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup>As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

C. Do you warn the wicked of impending doom?

Our psalm warns the wicked to turn from their wickedness and entrust themselves to the Lord (4-5,10). Though the NKJV interprets these warnings as the voice of \_\_\_\_\_, it is likely that they are the voice of our \_\_\_\_\_. So are you willing to follow Him?

<sup>22</sup>For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup>that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him... <sup>26</sup>For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup>and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. (John 5:22-23, 26-27)

### IV. Conclusion – The Destruction of Sennacherib by Lord Byron

Byron's poem, "*The Destruction of Sennacherib*", recounts the night the Angel of the Lord went among the camp of the Assyrians and slaughtered 185,000 men (cf. 2 Kgs 19:35-37). His poem reminds us that God's justice is praiseworthy and beautiful. When God causes wicked and boastful men and nations to drink the cup of His wrath and brings them down to the ground, it is good. So let us praise Him.