

Let's Thank God The Righteous Judge

Psalm 75

Introduction: 1) In Genesis 18:25 we find one of the great questions of life and of the Bible, put forward for our careful consideration and meditation: “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” God will indeed do right and as the Lord says in Psalm 75:2: His way. His time. Never early. Never late. Always right on time.

2) In Psalm 73:12 the psalmist complains because the ungodly “are always at ease; They increase in riches.” Psalm 75 says that evaluation is premature and short-sighted.

3) – This is a psalm of Asaph (as are Psalms 73-83, and Psalm 50). Asaph was one of David’s 3 chief musicians and the sons of Asaph were Levitical singers.

– The theme of Psalm 75 is one of thanksgiving for God’s righteous judgment.

– Psalm 75 finds parallels in two well-known passages of Scripture: 1) the song of Hannah, (1 Sam 2:1-10), and the song of Mary, the Magnificat, (Luke 1:46-55).

– Psalm 75 is Psalm 1 played out in a very clear and sovereign way. The tune “do not destroy” in the superscription has led some to believe the psalm was written by a descendant of Asaph just prior to the Assyrian invasion (2 Kings 18-19). That tragic date for the northern kingdom of Israel was 722 B.C.

I. **Thank God for His wonderful works.** 75:1

- The repetition of “we give thanks” adds intensity and emphasis to the thankfulness that is expressed. (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- God is near because He is the omnipresent God.
- God also is near because the declaration of His “wondrous works” draws us to Him in worship and gratitude for what He has done for us in the past. Past remembering is the basis for present rejoicing!

Transition: However, the nearness of God and His wondrous works can be seen in a different kind of way as well.

II. Thank God for His providential judgments. 75:2-5

- In verses 2-5 it appears that God is speaking. His speech or oracle naturally divides into 2 parts with 2 different audiences in view: 1) vs. 2-3 it is the righteous; 2) vs. 4-5 it is the “wicked” and “boastful” (*NIV*, “arrogant”).
- First, “when I choose the proper (appointed) time, I will judge uprightly (*NASV*, “with equity”). This is both a word of encouragement and a word of instruction. I will judge justly, but in my own way and my own time: 1) to allow time for repentance and salvation (Rom. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9), and 2) to allow evil to work itself out and come to full fruition. (cf. Genesis 15:16).
- Second, everything may appear to be falling apart and going to pieces, but our Lord is in control. The earth and its inhabitant may appear to dissolve (*NASV*, “melt”; *NIV*, “quake”). In contrast, God says, “I set up its pillars firmly.” The *NASV* renders it, “it is I who have firmly set its pillars.”
 - *The Message*: “When the earth goes topsy-turvy, and nobody knows which end is up, I nail it all down; I put everything in place again.”
 - In vs. 2-3 our God encourages the righteous. Now in vs. 4-5 He confronts the wicked. A chiasmic pattern is clearly evident.
 - Pride and boasting are detestable things to God. (cf. Proverbs 6:17). The arrogant are those who live life with no regard for God and boast of their independence and self-determination.
 - To these wicked ones God adds, “Do not lift up the horn. Do not lift up your horn on high (*NIV*, “against heaven”).

- Today, we would say they shake their fist in God's face and boldly claim, "I do not need you. I will not obey you. I will not honor you!" "I will live life my way!"
- (cf. Matthew 12:36-37).

III. Thank God for His Universal Sovereignty

75:6-8

- These words come from the psalmist as he reflects back on the words of God in vs. 2-5.
- The wicked in vs. 4-5 seek to exalt themselves. However, they are only fooling themselves as are those who follow these self-exalting titans of ego.
- At the appointed time, in His time, "He puts down one and exalts another."
(cf. Proverbs 3:34; Matthew 23:12).
- Verse 8 provides a powerful and dreadful image. The wrath and judgment of God is compared to a cup in Jehovah's hand. This is a picture of a powerful, hot, foaming concoction that is poured down the throats of evil men to the dregs, to the very last drop in the cup.
- Numerous times the cup of God's wrath appears in the Bible (Is. 51:17; Jere. 25:15-38; 49:12; 51:7; Rev. 18:6). Yet its most memorable occurrences are found on the lips of Jesus in Mark 10:38 and John 18:11.
- You see the wicked of vs. 4-5 are you and I without Christ. The cup of boiling, foaming judgment of v.8 is the cup of God's judgment we should be forced to drink. Yet, in amazing, saving grace, Jesus drank it for each of us, down to the very last drop. In sovereign grace He took on Himself the wrath and judgment of a just Judge that I should have received. He was put down for me, that I might be exalted in Him.

IV. Thank God for His Covenantal Faithfulness 75:9-10

- The final stanza parallels to some degree stanza 1, especially v. 9. In v. 1 there is thanksgiving, in v. 9 there is praise. The personal pronoun “I” appears 3 times, replacing the “we” of v. 1. This psalm ends on an intensely personal note.
- Having received a righteous promise of justice from the Righteous Judge of the universe, the psalmist shouts 1) I will declare the truth of your ways (vs. 6-8) forever; 2) I will sing praises to the God of Jacob, that is the covenant keeping God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- Energized and emboldened by God’s sovereign faithfulness, the psalmist joins his voice to that of the Lord’s in vs. 4-5, using similar terminology.

Conclusion

This Is My Father’s World

By Maltbie D. Babcock
(1901)

This is my Father’s world. O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens sing!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

This is my Father’s world, praying I may see His face.
I open my eyes, and in glad surprise, “The Lord is in this place.”
This is my Father’s world, from the shining courts above,
The Beloved One, Jesus His Son,
Came – a pledge of priceless love.

This is my Father’s world, should my heart be ever sad?
The Lord is King – let the heavens ring. God reigns – let the earth be glad.
This is my Father’s world. Now closer to Heaven I’m bound,
For dear to God is the earth Christ trod.
This world is holy ground.

(slightly revised by Danny Akin)