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Psalm 75

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 75.

Topics.

- God who keeps steady earth's pillars will judge when it totters.
- Do not boast for it is God who puts one down and lifts one up.
- In the hand of God is a cup that the wicked will drain down to the dregs.
- I will declare the wicked I will cut off, the righteous I shall lift up.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK THREE (PSALM 73-89)

PSALM 75:1-3

To the Choirmaster: According to Do Not Destroy. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

God keeps Earth's Pillars Steady and will Judge when it Totters.

- **Psalm 75:1-3:** We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds. ²"At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity. ³When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. *Selah*

Notice Asaph is speaking in verse one and then the language changes to the LORD proclaiming, "At an appointed time He will judge the earth with equity," meaning with fairness and justice. At this present time God's judgment is delayed, it could be said that we are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace. But God's Day of Judgment will not be delayed forever and all will give an account for how they have lived before God and according to the law of love. Meaning how they have treated others (inside the global Kingdom of God and outside of it). Jesus commanded his followers to, "Love their neighbour as themselves," (meaning do good and not harm to others).

When the earth totters (v3) the words, "It is I who keep steady the pillars of the earth," show that the same power God used to create all things is also the same power that holds the earth steady and in its place, but a judgment day is coming when God may allow the earth to move slightly off its axis prior to Christ's return and allow it to totter like a drunken man after which an entirely New Age will be introduced and those who see it will be able to say:

- Behold, God has created a new heaven and a new earth, and the former things shall no longer be remembered or come into mind. (Isaiah 65:17).

- I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (Rev. 21:1).

PSALM 75:4-7

Do Not Boast for it is God who puts One Down and Lifts One Up.

- **Psalm 75:4-7:** I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; ⁵do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.' ⁶For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, ⁷but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that God controls nations and puts leaders in their positions of rulership and removes them. Some might say, "If this is a true statement why do we have such corrupt and oppressive rulers over some nations." There is no simple answer to this that will fully satisfy our mortal mind which is exactly in accord with the following conclusion the author of Ecclesiastes came to:

- When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, ¹⁷then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However, much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (Eccles. 8:16-17).

Perhaps one answer to the question might be that we are not living in the Kingdom of God, but the kingdom of mankind at this present time it is not God's Spirit that is influencing the worlds' governments and the populations of the nations, but the spirit of the flesh (i.e., pride, ego, greed, selfish ambition, oppression, selfishness, lust, jealousy anger and such like things) and God is allowing mankind to do their own thing and delaying His judgment.

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PSALM 75:8

In God's Hand is a Cup that the Wicked will Drain to the Dregs.

The English Standard Bible says:

- **Psalm 75:8:** For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

The King James Bible says:

- For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them. (Psalm 75:8).

These can be viewed in the following way:

The English Standard Bible: pictures God holding a cup in His hand and pouring out of it well mixed foaming wine and the wicked of the earth drinking the dregs of it until the cup is empty.

The King James Bible: pictures God holding a cup full of mixed red wine in his hand, but much of it has been drunk so that all that is left of the wine to pour out is the dregs of it and even these the wicked of the earth drink dry (i.e., until the cup is empty).

The cup of foaming wine and red wine: the cup of mixed foaming wine symbolises a full mixture of all types of sins such as anger, jealousy, lust, greed, oppression of the poor, pride, selfish ambition and such like things while the red wine would symbolise violence, murder, wars, reliving and drunkenness etc. Together the foaming wine and red wine symbolise everything that is against God, against His will and against His ways and against His people.

The symbolism: here is that at the fall of Adam the cup of iniquity was full meaning all its wickedness was contained within the cup, but as time has passed by over many generations of history the wicked of the earth have been drinking from this cup of wickedness until only the very dregs of it remain. Based on this idea rather than each generation improving upon the previous one and becoming godlier they will continue to move further away from God and deteriorate more than the previous one.

PSALM 75:9-10

I will Cut off the Wicked, the Righteous I shall Lift Up.

- **Psalm 75:9-10:** But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. ¹⁰All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

Following are the three things Asaph will declare forever:

1. All the wondrous deeds of the LORD (v1).
2. God will destroy all the heads of nations, and the heads of religion and all who are in authority that are corrupt and also destroy all that is wicked upon the earth.
3. God will exalt all who live to honour Him and who live according to the command of Jesus, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Meaning do-good to others and not harm).

It is interesting to notice that at verse ten the language changes from Asaph speaking to the LORD speaking and saying, He will cut off all the wicked and exalt the righteous.

FOOTNOTE

God's judgment will be based upon the Ten Commandments which are all based upon love, because each law protects the innocent from harm which means mankind will be judged according to the law of love.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Jesus commanded his followers to:

- Love their neighbours as themselves," (Mark 12:31).

Next to loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the command to love your neighbours as yourself is not only the greatest commandment in the entire Bible and under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts, but also the greatest commandment before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. To love your neighbour as yourself, (Matt. 22:39) means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. James the brother of Jesus said:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
