

## The Majestic God

Jesus in the Psalms

*Psalm 76*

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. I Am (cf. Jn 8:58; 18:5-6)

### II. The Majestic God

*Psalm 76 - To the Chief Musician. On Stringed Instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.*

<sup>1</sup>In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. <sup>2</sup>In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion. <sup>3</sup>There He broke the arrows of the bow, The shield and sword of battle. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup>You are more glorious and excellent Than the mountains of prey. <sup>5</sup>The stouthearted were plundered; They have sunk into their sleep; And none of the mighty men have found the use of their hands. <sup>6</sup>At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Both the chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep. <sup>7</sup>You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry? <sup>8</sup>You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still, <sup>9</sup>When God arose to judgment, To deliver all the oppressed of the earth. *Selah* <sup>10</sup>Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself.

<sup>11</sup>Make vows to the LORD your God, and pay them; Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared. <sup>12</sup>He shall cut off the spirit of princes; He is awesome to the kings of the earth.

#### A. God's Protection is to be Praised (1-3)

The first stanza celebrates God as the One who loves and protects His people - which, in the new covenant, is the Church of God. Here in *Mt. Zion* is His *dwelling place*. We are the temple of the Living God and the Spirit of God dwells in our midst (1 Cor 3:16). Hence, to attack the Church, to attack God's dwelling place, is to attack God Himself. "*If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple y'all are*" (3:17).

#### B. God's Anger is to be Feared (4-10 cf. Gen 50:20)

The second stanza praises the God who defends His dwelling place, praises the God who vindicates His people and judges His enemies. There are many who think that the occasion of this psalm was the destruction of Sennacherib's army, the slaughter of 185,000 men in a single night by the Angel of the Lord. At God's *rebuke*, His mere word, all the military might of the enemy was conquered. Hence, it is God who *is to be feared* – for *when once* His *anger* is roused, *who may stand* before Him. So great is the Lord's power that *even the wrath of man* - man's attempts to thwart God's purposes, persecute His people, and deride His laws – adorn God's purposes.

#### C. God's Name is to be Honored (11-12)

The third stanza summons all peoples and kings to pay homage to Yahweh, the Living God. We ought to *make vows* in His Name and *pay* (fulfill) *them* – don't *make vows* in the name of other gods and don't fail to do what you have promised to do. Further, bring *presents to Him* as tribute.

<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

### III. Conclusion