

Evening Sermon – October 11, 2020

“Where God is Known” Psalm 76

- I. *There are places where God is or has been known, Jerusalem is on the top of this list –*

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 Psalm 76:1–2 (NKJV)

1. *Here, “Judah” refers to that territory granted by God to the tribe of Judah. After, Solomon’s death the other tribes separated from Judah, so there was a king in Judah and one in Israel, the only faithful kings, after Solomon’s death were in Judah!*

*Even Jesus, Who is King of kings, and LORD of lords is known as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah –*

<sup>5</sup> But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” <sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. Revelation 5:5–7 (NKJV)

2. *Salem is Jerusalem –*  
3. *Even Israel, compared to the rest of the world was a place where God was known!*  
4. *In these places God’s protection was part of their history.*

<sup>3</sup> There He broke the arrows of the bow, The shield and sword of battle. Selah Psalm 76:3 (NKJV)

5. *The United States has been such a place where God has been known – not as well today as in the past.*  
A. *This does not mean the people in these places are superior, or perfect, they are not –*

<sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; Deuteronomy 7:7 (NKJV)

- B. *Jamaica was also such a place, as you have told me, you learned about God in your schools!*  
C. *People in such places are blessed and privileged, more will be required of them –*

<sup>47</sup> And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.  
<sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:47–48 (NKJV)

- II. *A great deliverance was accomplished by God –*

<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. Psalm 76:4–6 (NKJV)

1. *The Assyrians were telling Hezekiah not to trust God -*

<sup>10</sup> “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”’ Isaiah 37:10

2. *He prayed to God about this –*

<sup>14</sup> And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying: <sup>16</sup> “O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup> Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. Isaiah 37:14–17 (NKJV)

3. *God answered this prayer dramatically –*

<sup>36</sup> Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when *people* arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. <sup>37</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned *home*,

and remained at Nineveh. <sup>38</sup> Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. Isaiah 37:36–38 (NKJV)

*Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.*” Far more is Jehovah to be extolled than all the invading powers which sought to oppress his people, though they were for power and greatness comparable to mountains. Assyria had pillaged the nations till it had become rich with mountains of spoil, this was talked of among men as glory, but the Psalmist despises such renown, and declares that the Lord was far more illustrious. What are the honors of war but brags of murder? What the fame of conquerors but the reek of manslaughter? But the Lord is glorious in holiness, and his terrible deeds are done in justice for the defence of the weak and the deliverance of the enslaved. Mere power may be glorious, but it is not excellent: when we behold the mighty acts of the Lord, we see a perfect blending of the two qualities. C.H. Spurgeon

### III. God is to be feared –

<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 Psalm 76:7–9 (NKJV)

1. “feared” this verb *no ra* in the Hebrew includes:

- A. The idea of terror
- B. But also awe, reverence

:7 – No one can stand before God’s anger!

2. God is to be feared because His judgment is righteous, and we are sinners – Jesus said ...

<sup>4</sup> “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:4–5 (NKJV)

### IV. Man’s wrath will praise God, how?

<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. Psalm 76:10–12 (NKJV)

1. Man’s wrath praise God, how? One way it praises God is in its defeat – Pharaoh, angrily chases his ex-slaves into the Red Sea ... You all know what happened -

**15 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: “I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! Exodus 15:1 (NKJV)**

Verse 10.—“Thou shalt restrain.” You shall gird Yourself This, in the Hebrew, is expressed in one word, **תִּקְּוּ**, which imports the begirding or binding of it in on every side, that it shall by no means break out, but shall be kept in, as a dog in a chain, as a lion in his den, how violent soever.—*Cornelius Burges, in “Another Sermon preached to the Honourable House of Commons.... November the fifth, 1641.”*

2. Make vows to the LORD your God and pay them ... similar to Psalm 2 –

<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. Psalm 2:11–12 (NKJV)

3. God is in control –

<sup>12</sup> He shall cut off the spirit of princes; He is awesome to the kings of the earth. Psalm 76: 12 (NKJV)

Verse 12.—“Cut off.” He deals with princes as men deal with a vine. An axe is too strong for a cluster of grapes, or a sprig of a vine; it easily cuts them off: so God by a judgment easily cuts off the spirit of princes; they are not able to stand against the least judgments of God: when he puts strength into worms, or any other creatures they fall.—*William Greenhill, in a Sermon, entitled, “The Axe at the Root.”*

*Arnold Brewick*