

# Psalm 75: God's Judgment



## Psalm 75 (74) (Mode 2. 5....3I / 4.....32)

This is a hymn of praise for God's just judgment. It fits well here after Psalm 74. The sudden change of speakers (see the abrupt change from verse one to verse two) suggests a liturgical setting.

We give you thanks, O God,  
as we invoke your name.

We proclaim for all to hear  
your wondrous deeds.

‘I [emphatic] your God,  
choose the time to set things right.

‘Ah, you who say, “Let him make haste, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment, that we may know it!”’(Isaiah 5:19).

‘Thus says the Lord God: None of my words will be delayed any longer, but the word that I speak will be fulfilled, says the Lord God’(Ezekiel 12:28).

Even were the earth to totter,  
I (emphatic) will secure its foundations.

‘If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?’(Psalm 11:3).

‘They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken’(Psalm 82:5).

‘I say to the boastful: “Stop your boasting!”  
and to the wicked, “Do not flaunt your power.

Literally ‘Do not lift up your horn’.

The horn is symbol of power.

Do not oppose the One on high,  
or insolently confront your God”.’

For justice is not from east or west,  
or the wilderness (Negev), or the mountains (Lebanon).

It is God who executes judgment,  
putting one person down, and lifting up another.

‘The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place. The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place’(Sirach 10:14-15).

We recall the following from the New Testament:

‘The Lord has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty’(Luke 1:51-53).

## Song of Hannah: 1Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah prayed and said, 'My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

## Song of Hannah: 1Samuel 2:1-10

The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord ... raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world ... The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered ... The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will exalt the power of his anointed.



For in the hand of the Lord  
is a jug filled with drugged wine.

‘They shall drink and stagger and go out of their minds because of the sword that I am sending among them’(Jeremiah 25:16).

‘You shall be filled with drunkenness and sorrow. A cup of horror and desolation is the cup of your sister Samaria’(Ezekiel 23:33).

‘I took the cup from the Lord’s hand, and made all the nations to whom the Lord sent me drink it’(Jeremiah 25:17).

For in the hand of the Lord  
is a jug filled with drugged wine.

In his agony Jesus prayed that he would not have to drink from the 'cup'(Matthew 26:39,42). Recall also Jesus words to the sons of Zebedee: 'Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?'(Matthew 20:22), and to Peter: 'Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'(John 18:11).

He will pour from it a draught,  
and the wicked shall drain it to the dregs.

Joel 3:9-17

‘Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare war, stir up the warriors. Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up. Beat your ploughshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weakling say, ‘I am a warrior.’ Come quickly, all you nations all around, gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O Lord. Let the nations rouse themselves, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the neighbouring nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the wine press is full.

## Joel 3:9-17

The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining ... But the Lord is a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. So you shall know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it.'

As for me, I will rejoice forever.

I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

God will break the power (horns) of the wicked,  
while the strength (horns) of the just will be exalted.

‘God the judge of all’(Hebrews 12:23).

‘There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save  
and to destroy’ (James 4:12).

‘If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile’(1Peter 1:17).

‘God has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead’(Acts 17:31).

‘The day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all’(Romans 2:16).