

## God Himself Is Judge (c. David/Solomon)

## Psalm 50

## A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 The Supreme God, God, Yahweh, has spoken  
and summoned *the* earth,  
from *the* rising of *the* sun  
to its setting.
- 2 From Zion, *the* perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes and he is not silent.  
Before him fire devours,  
and around him it is very tempestuous.
- 4 He summons the heavens above  
and the earth that he might judge his people:
- 5 “Gather to me my loyal ones,  
*those* who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
- 6 And *the* heavens declare his righteousness,  
because God himself is judge. *Selah*
- 7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak,  
O Israel, and I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.
- 8 It is not concerning *a lack of* your sacrifices *that* I rebuke you,  
and your burnt offerings *are* before me continually.
- 9 I will not take from your house a bull  
*or* from your stalls a he-goat,
- 10 because every animal of the forest is mine,  
*the* cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know every bird of *the* mountains,  
and *every* moving creature in *the* field *is* mine.
- 12 If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
because *the* world and its fullness *are* mine.
- 13 Do I eat *the* flesh of bulls  
or drink *the* blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a thank offering  
and pay your vows to *the* Most High.
- 15 And call me in *the* day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will glorify me.”
- 16 But to the wicked God says,  
“What *right* have you to recite my statutes  
and mention my covenant with your mouth,  
17 while you yourself hate discipline,  
and cast my words behind you?
- 18 When you see a thief, then you are pleased with him,  
and your association *is* with adulterers.
- 19 You give your mouth free rein for evil,  
and you harness your tongue to deceit.
- 20 You sit and speak against your brother;  
you slander your mother’s son.
- 21 These *things* you have done, and I have been silent;  
You imagined that I was just like you.  
I will rebuke you and present *an argument* before your eyes.
- 22 Now consider this, you who forget God,  
lest I tear *you* apart, and there *will be* none to deliver.
- 23 He who sacrifices a thank offering honors me,  
and he *who* orders *his* way;  
I will show him the salvation of God.”

## God Is My Strength and Portion Forever (c. David/Solomon)

## Psalm 73

## A song of Asaph.

- 1 Surely God is good to Israel,  
to those pure of heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled.  
My steps had nearly slipped,
- 3 because I envied the boastful  
*when* I saw *the* well-being of *the* wicked. [cf. [Ps 37:1–2, 7–11; 92:6–7; Pro 24:19–20; Jer 12:1–6](#)]
- 4 For there are no pains up to their death,  
and their bodies *are* healthy.
- 5 They do not have ordinary trouble,  
and they are not plagued as *other* people.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace;  
an outfit of violence covers them.
- 7 Their eye bulges from fat.  
Imaginings overflow *their* heart.
- 8 They mock and speak maliciously of oppression;  
they speak *as though* from on high.
- 9 They set their mouth against the heavens,  
and their tongue roams the earth.
- 10 Therefore his people turn there,  
and abundant waters are slurped up by them.
- 11 And they say, “How does God know?”  
and, “Does the Most High have knowledge?”
- 12 See, these *are the* wicked,  
and they increase wealth, ever carefree.
- 13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure,  
and washed my hands in innocence.
- 14 And I have been plagued all day  
and rebuked every morning.
- 15 If I had said, “I will speak thus,”  
behold, I would have acted treacherously  
against your children’s generation.
- 16 When I thought about *how* to understand this,  
it *was* troubling in my eyes
- 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God.  
*Then* I understood their fate.
- 18 Surely you set them on slippery places.  
You cause them to fall onto ruin.
- 19 How they become a desolation in a moment!  
They come to a complete end by terrors.
- 20 Like a dream upon awakening,  
when *you* wake up, O Lord,  
you will despise their fleeting form.
- 21 When my heart was embittered  
and I felt stabbed in my kidneys,
- 22 then I was brutish and ignorant.  
With you I was *like* the beasts.
- 23 But I *am* continually with you;  
you have hold of my right hand.
- 24 You will guide me with your advice,  
and afterward you will take me *into* honor.
- 25 Whom do I have in the heavens *except you*?  
And with you I have no *other* desire on earth.
- 26 My flesh and heart failed,  
*but God is* the strength of my heart and my reward forever.
- 27 For indeed, *those* distancing themselves from you will be ruined.

- You destroy each who abandons you for harlotry.  
 28 But as for me, the approach to God *is* for my good.  
 I have set the Lord Yahweh *as* my refuge,  
 in order to tell all your works.

### God Will Judge with Equity (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 75

*For the music director, according to Do Not Destroy.*

**A psalm of Asaph. A song.**

- 1 We give thanks to you, O God;  
we give thanks, and your name is near.  
Your wonderful deeds are told.
- 2 "I will indeed set an appointed time;  
I will judge fairly.
- 3 *The* earth and all its inhabitants *are* shaking;  
I steady its columns. *Selah*
- 4 I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast!  
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up *your* horn!
- 5 Do not lift up high your horn.  
Do *not* speak with arrogant pride."
- 6 For *it is* not from *the* east or *the* west  
and not from *the* south *that* lifting up *comes*,  
rather God *is the* judge;  
one he brings low, and another he lifts up.
- 8 For *there is* a cup in the hand of Yahweh  
with wine *that* foams, fully mixed,  
and he pours out from this.  
Surely all *the* wicked of *the* land  
will quaff it down *to* its dregs.
- 9 But as for me, I will proclaim forever;  
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.
- 10 "And all *the* horns of *the* wicked I will cut off.  
*The* horns of *the* righteous will be lifted up."

### Who Can Stand Before You? (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 76

*For the music director, with stringed instruments.*

**A psalm of Asaph. A song.**

- 1 God *is* known in Judah.  
His name *is* great in Israel.
- 2 His den has been in Salem,  
his lair in Zion.
- 3 There he broke *the* flames of *the* bow,  
*the* shield and sword and battle. *Selah*
- 4 Radiant you *are*, majestic,  
from *the* mountains of prey.
- 5 *The* stouthearted are plundered;  
they sleep their sleep,  
and all *the* able men cannot use their hands.
- 6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,  
both rider and horse slumber.
- 7 You, indeed, are to be feared,  
and who can stand before you  
when you *are* angry?
- 8 From heaven you proclaimed judgment.

- The earth feared and was still*  
 9 when God rose for justice,  
 to save all *the* afflicted of *the* land. *Selah*  
 10 For the anger of humankind will praise you.  
 You will put on *the* remnant of anger.  
 11 Make vows and fulfill them to Yahweh, your God;  
 let all surrounding him  
 bring tribute to the *one to be* feared.  
 12 He cuts off *the* spirit of leaders.  
*He is to be* feared by *the* kings of *the* earth.

### In the Day of Trouble I Seek the Lord (c. David/Solomon)

#### Psalm 77

*For the music director, on Jeduthun.*

#### **Of Asaph. A psalm.**

- 1 I cry out with my voice to God;  
 with my voice to God, that he may hear me.  
 2 In the day I *have* trouble, I seek the Lord.  
 At night my hand stretches out continually;  
 my soul refuses to be comforted.  
 3 I remember God and I groan loudly;  
 I meditate and my spirit grows faint. *Selah*  
 4 You hold *open* my eyelids.  
 I am troubled and cannot speak.  
 5 I think about *the* days from long ago,  
*the* years of ancient times.  
 6 I remember my song in the night.  
 With my heart I meditate,  
 and my spirit searches *to understand*.  
 7 Will the Lord reject *us* forever,  
 and will he never be pleased *with us* again?  
 8 Has his loyal love ceased forever?  
 Is *his* promise ended throughout generations?  
 9 Has God forgotten to have compassion?  
 Or has he closed off his mercies in anger? *Selah*  
 10 So I said, "This pierces me—  
 the right *hand* of the Most High *has* changed."  
 11 I will remember the deeds of Yah.  
 Surely I will remember your wonders from long ago.  
 12 I will also muse on all your work,  
 and meditate on your deeds.  
 13 O God, your way *is* distinctive.  
 Who *is* a great god like *our* God?  
 14 You *are* the God who works wonders;  
 you have made known your might among the peoples.  
 15 With *your* arm you redeemed your people,  
 the children of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*  
 16 Waters saw you, O God;  
 waters saw you *and* they trembled.  
 Surely *the* deeps shook.  
 17 *The* clouds poured out water.  
*The* skies thundered.  
 Your arrows also flew about.  
 18 The sound of your thunder *was* in the whirlwind;  
 lightnings lit *the* world;  
 the earth shook and quaked.  
 19 Your way *was* through the sea,

and your path through many waters.  
Yet your footprints were not discerned.  
20 You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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### **Chronological Notes**

- 1) There are twelve psalms attributed to Asaph (50, 73–83). Asaph was a Levite musician who played a leading role in the music of worship during the time of David (1 Chr 15:17–19; 16:4–5), and whose descendants carried on the family tradition of music (Ezra 3:10). Three of these psalms are connected with the exile to Babylon (74, 79) and the fall of Samaria (80), and will be presented later in that context. The remaining nine psalms will be presented here in their canonical order. I have dated these psalms as “c. David/Solomon” to indicate that they were likely written during the reign of David or Solomon.