

God Himself Is Judge (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 50

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 The Mighty One, God, the LORD, has spoken,
And summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God has shone forth.
- 3 May our God come and not keep silence;
Fire devours before Him,
And it is very tempestuous around Him.
- 4 He summons the heavens above,
And the earth, to judge His people:
- 5 “Gather My godly ones to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”
- 6 And the heavens declare His righteousness,
For God Himself is judge. *Selah*.
- 7 “Hear, O My people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you;
I am God, your God.
- 8 “I do not reprove you for your sacrifices,
And your burnt offerings are continually before Me.
- 9 “I shall take no young bull out of your house
Nor male goats out of your folds.
- 10 “For every beast of the forest is Mine,
The cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 “I know every bird of the mountains,
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.
- 12 “If I were hungry I would not tell you,
For the world is Mine, and all it contains.
- 13 “Shall I eat the flesh of bulls
Or drink the blood of male goats?
- 14 “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving
And pay your vows to the Most High;
- 15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”
- 16 But to the wicked God says,
“What right have you to tell of My statutes
And to take My covenant in your mouth?
- 17 “For you hate discipline,
And you cast My words behind you.
- 18 “When you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
And you associate with adulterers.
- 19 “You let your mouth loose in evil
And your tongue frames deceit.
- 20 “You sit and speak against your brother;
You slander your own mother’s son.
- 21 “These things you have done and I kept silence;
You thought that I was just like you;
I will reprove you and state *the case* in order before your eyes.
- 22 “Now consider this, you who forget God,
Or I will tear *you* in pieces, and there will be none to deliver.
- 23 “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me;
And to him who orders *his way aright* I shall show the salvation of God.”

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

Psalm 73

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Surely God is good to Israel,
To those who are pure in heart!
- 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling,
My steps had almost slipped.
- 3 For I was envious of the arrogant
As I saw the prosperity 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 in their death,
And their body is fat.
- 5 They are not in trouble *as other* men,
Nor are they plagued like mankind.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
The garment of violence covers them.
- 7 Their eye bulges from fatness;
The imaginations of *their* heart run riot.
- 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression;
They speak from on high.
- 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens,
And their tongue parades through the earth.
- 10 Therefore his people return to this place,
And waters of abundance are drunk by them.
- 11 They say, "How does God know?
And is there knowledge with the Most High?"
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked;
And always at ease, they have increased *in* wealth.
- 13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
And washed my hands in innocence;
- 14 For I have been stricken all day long
And chastened every morning.
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.
- 16 When I pondered to understand this,
It was troublesome in my sight
- 17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God;
Then I perceived their end.
- 18 Surely You set them in slippery places;
You cast them down to destruction.
- 19 How they are destroyed in a moment!
They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!
- 20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.
- 21 When my heart was embittered
And I was pierced within,
- 22 Then I was senseless and ignorant;
I was *like* a beast before You.
- 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You have taken hold of my right hand.
- 24 With Your counsel You will guide me,
And afterward receive me to glory.
- 25 Whom have I in heaven *but* You?
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.
- 26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- 27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;
You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.
- 28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;

I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
That I may tell of all Your works.

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

Psalm 75

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth.

A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

- 1 We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks,
For Your name is near;
Men declare Your wondrous works.
- 2 “When I select an appointed time,
It is I who judge with equity.
- 3 “The earth and all who dwell in it melt;
It is I who have firmly set its pillars. *Selah.*
- 4 “I said to the boastful, ‘Do not boast,’
And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn;
5 Do not lift up your horn on high,
Do not speak with insolent pride.’”
- 6 For not from the east, nor from the west,
Nor from the desert *comes* exaltation;
7 But God is the Judge;
He puts down one and exalts another.
- 8 For a cup is in the hand of the LORD, and the wine foams;
It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;
Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain *and* drink down its dregs.
- 9 But as for me, I will declare *it* forever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
- 10 And all the horns of the wicked He will cut off,
But the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.

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

Psalm 76

For the choir director; on stringed instruments.

A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

- 1 God is known in Judah;
His name is great in Israel.
- 2 His tabernacle is in Salem;
His dwelling place also is in Zion.
- 3 There He broke the flaming arrows,
The shield and the sword and the weapons of war. *Selah.*
- 4 You are resplendent,
More majestic than the mountains of prey.
- 5 The stouthearted were plundered,
They sank into sleep;
And none of the warriors could use his hands.
- 6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
Both rider and horse were cast into a dead sleep.
- 7 You, even You, are to be feared;
And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?
- 8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven;
The earth feared and was still
- 9 When God arose to judgment,
To save all the humble of the earth. *Selah.*
- 10 For the wrath of man shall praise You;
With a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.
- 11 Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill *them*;

- Let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared.
- 12 He will cut off the spirit of princes;
He is feared by the kings of the earth.

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

Psalm 77

For the choir director; according to Jeduthun.

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 My voice *rises* to God, and I will cry aloud;
My voice *rises* to God, and He will hear me.
- 2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;
In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;
My soul refused to be comforted.
- 3 *When* I remember God, then I am disturbed;
When I sigh, then my spirit grows faint. *Selah.*
- 4 You have held my eyelids *open*;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- 5 I have considered the days of old,
The years of long ago.
- 6 I will remember my song in the night;
I will meditate with my heart,
And my spirit ponders:
- 7 Will the Lord reject forever?
And will He never be favorable again?
- 8 Has His lovingkindness ceased forever?
Has *His* promise come to an end forever?
- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious,
Or has He in anger withdrawn His compassion? *Selah.*
- 10 Then I said, "It is my grief,
That the right hand of the Most High has changed."
- 11 I shall remember the deeds of the LORD;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
- 12 I will meditate on all Your work
And muse on Your deeds.
- 13 Your way, O God, is holy;
What god is great like our God?
- 14 You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your strength among the peoples.
- 15 You have by Your power redeemed Your people,
The sons of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah.*
- 16 The waters saw You, O God;
The waters saw You, they were in anguish;
The deeps also trembled.
- 17 The clouds poured out water;
The skies gave forth a sound;
Your arrows flashed here and there.
- 18 The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
The lightnings lit up the world;
The earth trembled and shook.
- 19 Your way was in the sea
And Your paths in the mighty waters,
And Your footprints may not be known.
- 20 You led Your people like a flock
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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.