

God Himself Is Judge (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 50

A psalm by Asaph.

- 1 El, God, the LORD speaks,
and summons the earth to come from the east and west.
- 2 From Zion, the most beautiful of all places,
God comes in splendor.
- 3 Our God approaches and is not silent;
consuming fire goes ahead of him
and all around him a storm rages.
- 4 He summons the heavens above,
as well as the earth, so that he might judge his people.
- 5 He says:
“Assemble my covenant people before me,
those who ratified a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
- 6 The heavens declare his fairness,
for God is judge. (Selah)
- 7 He says:
“Listen my people! I am speaking!
Listen Israel! I am accusing you!
I am God, your God!
- 8 I am not condemning you because of your sacrifices,
or because of your burnt sacrifices that you continually offer me.
- 9 I do not need to take a bull from your household
or goats from your sheepfolds.
- 10 For every wild animal in the forest belongs to me,
as well as the cattle that graze on a thousand hills.
- 11 I keep track of every bird in the hills,
and the insects of the field are mine.
- 12 Even if I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all it contains belong to me.
- 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls?
Do I drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Present to God a thank-offering!
Repay your vows to the sovereign One!
- 15 Pray to me when you are in trouble!
I will deliver you, and you will honor me!”
- 16 God says this to the evildoer:
“How can you declare my commands,
and talk about my covenant?
- 17 For you hate instruction
and reject my words.
- 18 When you see a thief, you join him;
you associate with men who are unfaithful to their wives.
- 19 You do damage with words,
and use your tongue to deceive.
- 20 You plot against your brother;
you slander your own brother.
- 21 When you did these things, I was silent,
so you thought I was exactly like you.
But now I will condemn you
and state my case against you!
- 22 Carefully consider this, you who reject God!
Otherwise I will rip you to shreds
and no one will be able to rescue you.
- 23 Whoever presents a thank-offering honors me.
To whoever obeys my commands, I will reveal my power to deliver.”

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

Psalm 73

A psalm by Asaph.

- 1 Certainly God is good to Israel,
and to those whose motives are pure!
- 2 But as for me, my feet almost slipped;
my feet almost slid out from under me.
- 3 For I envied those who are proud,
as I observed 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 they suffer no pain;
their bodies are strong and well-fed.
- 5 They are immune to the trouble common to men;
they do not suffer as other men do.
- 6 Arrogance is their necklace,
and violence their clothing.
- 7 Their prosperity causes them to do wrong;
their thoughts are sinful.
- 8 They mock and say evil things;
they proudly threaten violence.
- 9 They speak as if they rule in heaven,
and lay claim to the earth.
- 10 Therefore they have more than enough food to eat,
and even suck up the water of the sea.
- 11 They say, “How does God know what we do?
Is the sovereign one aware of what goes on?”
- 12 Take a good look! This is what the wicked are like,
those who always have it so easy and get richer and richer.
- 13 I concluded, “Surely in vain I have kept my motives pure
and maintained a pure lifestyle.
- 14 I suffer all day long,
and am punished every morning.”
- 15 If I had publicized these thoughts,
I would have betrayed your loyal followers.
- 16 When I tried to make sense of this,
it was troubling to me.
- 17 Then I entered the precincts of God’s temple,
and understood the destiny of the wicked.
- 18 Surely you put them in slippery places;
you bring them down to ruin.
- 19 How desolate they become in a mere moment!
Terrifying judgments make their demise complete!
- 20 They are like a dream after one wakes up.
O Lord, when you awake you will despise them.
- 21 Yes, my spirit was bitter,
and my insides felt sharp pain.
- 22 I was ignorant and lacked insight;
I was as senseless as an animal before you.
- 23 But I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
- 24 You guide me by your wise advice,
and then you will lead me to a position of honor.
- 25 Whom do I have in heaven but you?
I desire no one but you on earth.
- 26 My flesh and my heart may grow weak,
but God always protects my heart and gives me stability.
- 27 Yes, look! Those far from you die;
you destroy everyone who is unfaithful to you.
- 28 But as for me, God’s presence is all I need.

I have made the sovereign LORD my shelter,
as I declare all the things you have done.

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

Psalm 75

For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style;

A psalm of Asaph; a song.

- 1 We give thanks to you, O God! We give thanks!
You reveal your presence;
people tell about your amazing deeds.
- 2 God says,
“At the appointed times,
I judge fairly.
- 3 When the earth and all its inhabitants dissolve in fear,
I make its pillars secure.” (Selah)
- 4 I say to the proud, “Do not be proud,”
and to the wicked, “Do not be so confident of victory!
- 5 Do not be so certain you have won!
Do not speak with your head held so high!
- 6 For victory does not come from the east or west,
or from the wilderness.
- 7 For God is the judge!
He brings one down and exalts another.
- 8 For the LORD holds in his hand a cup full
of foaming wine mixed with spices,
and pours it out.
Surely all the wicked of the earth
will slurp it up and drink it to its very last drop.”
- 9 As for me, I will continually tell what you have done;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob!
- 10 God says,
“I will bring down all the power of the wicked;
the godly will be victorious.”

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

Psalm 76

For the music director; to be accompanied by stringed instruments;

A psalm of Asaph, a song.

- 1 God has revealed himself in Judah;
in Israel his reputation is great.
- 2 He lives in Salem;
he dwells in Zion.
- 3 There he shattered the arrows,
the shield, the sword, and the rest of the weapons of war. (Selah)
- 4 You shine brightly and reveal your majesty,
as you descend from the hills where you killed your prey.
- 5 The bravehearted were plundered;
they “fell asleep.”
All the warriors were helpless.
- 6 At the sound of your battle cry, O God of Jacob,
both rider and horse “fell asleep.”
- 7 You are awesome! Yes, you!
Who can withstand your intense anger?
- 8 From heaven you announced what their punishment would be.
The earth was afraid and silent
- 9 when God arose to execute judgment,

- and to deliver all the oppressed of the earth. (Selah)
- 10 Certainly your angry judgment upon men will bring you praise;
you reveal your anger in full measure.
- 11 Make vows to the LORD your God and repay them!
Let all those who surround him bring tribute to the awesome one!
- 12 He humbles princes;
the kings of the earth regard him as awesome.

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

Psalm 77

For the music director, Jeduthun;

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 I will cry out to God and call for help!
I will cry out to God and he will pay attention to me.
- 2 In my time of trouble I sought the Lord.
I kept my hand raised in prayer throughout the night.
I refused to be comforted.
- 3 I said, "I will remember God while I groan;
I will think about him while my strength leaves me." (Selah)
- 4 You held my eyelids open;
I was troubled and could not speak.
- 5 I thought about the days of old,
about ancient times.
- 6 I said, "During the night I will remember the song I once sang;
I will think very carefully."
I tried to make sense of what was happening.
- 7 I asked, "Will the Lord reject me forever?
Will he never again show me his favor?"
- 8 Has his loyal love disappeared forever?
Has his promise failed forever?
- 9 Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has his anger stifled his compassion?"
- 10 Then I said, "I am sickened by the thought
that the sovereign One might become inactive.
- 11 I will remember the works of the LORD.
Yes, I will remember the amazing things you did long ago!
- 12 I will think about all you have done;
I will reflect upon your deeds!"
- 13 O God, your deeds are extraordinary!
What god can compare to our great God?
- 14 You are the God who does amazing things;
you have revealed your strength among the nations.
- 15 You delivered your people by your strength—
the children of Jacob and Joseph. (Selah)
- 16 The waters saw you, O God,
the waters saw you and trembled.
Yes, the depths of the sea shook with fear.
- 17 The clouds poured down rain;
the skies thundered.
Yes, your arrows flashed about.
- 18 Your thunderous voice was heard in the wind;
the lightning bolts lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
- 19 You walked through the sea;
you passed through the surging waters,
but left no footprints.
- 20 You led your people like a flock of sheep,

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.