

In Judah Is God Known Psalm 076

To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm or Song of Asaph.

This Psalm is believed to be written concerning the deliverance of Jerusalem from Sennacherib king of Assyria, found in the book of 2 Kings chapters 18-19. Sennacherib has already taken many other nations and most of Israel, and Judah, captive, and has sent a massive army to take Jerusalem.

Ps 76:1 ¶ "In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel."

Jerusalem was the capital city of Judah. It was the place where King David built a tabernacle to house the ark of the covenant of God. When Solomon built the temple of God, and the ark of the covenant of God was moved to the temple. Remember, above the ark of the covenant of God was the place where God communed with and gave commandment to Israel, seen in: ***Ex 25:22 "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.***" All Israel knew the greatness of God's name, having often witnessed God's deliverance in their lives.

2 "In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion."

Salem is another name for Jerusalem, The name, Zion and/or Mount Zion, is used to encompass a very large area around Jerusalem, and as the name of the mount upon which Jerusalem was built. As we think upon the name Salem, we remember earlier in scripture, when Abram rescued his brother Lot from the five kings that pillaged Sodom and Gomorrah, and took Lot and his family captive, seen in: ***Ge 14:18-20; 18 "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.***" Abraham, Abram at the time, was the first to receive the covenant promise of God, that God would make of his seed many nations, which included Israel who would be God's chosen nation, and the promise of the Messiah coming from his lineage.

To demonstrate the prophetic connection of Salem and Jerusalem, we go to the New Testament in: ***Heb 5:5-10; 5 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. 6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 ¶ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."***

Melchizedek was King of Salem, and High Priest of God, when Jerusalem was known as Salem. Where was Christ revealed as King when he was on the earth? Jerusalem. Where did Christ perform the duties of High Priest when he was on the earth? In Jerusalem, in Mt Zion, where he offered himself to die upon the cross for the eternal redemption of the sins of all of God's people. Wherefore, the first mentioned priest of God was a type and figure of the last earthly High Priest of God, Jesus Christ.

3 "There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah."

We go now to the scripture in 2 kings to demonstrate this verse: ***2Ki 19:32-37; 32 "Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. 35 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead."***

As is clearly seen in this text: Sennacherib and the Assyrians did not shoot arrows into Jerusalem, they did not enter with sword and shield, and they did no battle in Jerusalem, which is a figurative picture of the church today. God, by his own power and might, smote the host of the armies of Sennacherib.

Did you notice? "***And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.***" This deliverance came by the "***angel of the Lord***," who is a type of the preincarnate Christ. How many of God's people died? None, because they were saved by the power of God. When Jesus gave up his mortality it was dark as night. What happened when Jesus gave his life on the cross? Jesus overcame death, hell, and the grave, and Satan and his minions arose as dead corpses. What do you mean? Satan and his minions have no power to destroy, or kill, the eternal life that is given to God's people, through the finished work of Jesus: "***not of works, lest any man should boast.***"

This is why we are told in the New Testament: ***Eph 2:4-9; 4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***" Just as Jerusalem and its inhabitants were saved by the grace of God, through the prayer of King Hezekiah, to the glory of God's holy name, so we today are saved by the free gift of the grace of God, through the prayer and finished work of King Jesus.

Sennacherib and his armies slew, and took captive, thousands of people and conquered many nations, and they are a picture of death and destruction, which gives us the present-day picture of the satanic powers in the world. Israel and its inhabitants had turned from God to idolatry, and were all guilty before God, and under the penalty of death for sin. However, King Hezekiah went to God in prayer. He told the boastful words of Sennacherib to God. He told God how Sennacherib had slandered his name. God heard the prayer of Hezekiah and delivered Jerusalem and its inhabitants for the glory of his name, not because they deserved saving, but for the glory of his own name. ***Ro 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*** God the Father heard the prayer of God the Son on the cross, and for the glory of his own name he saved all the children of God, figuratively the inhabitants of Jerusalem, through the prayer and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

4 "Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey. 5 The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep: and none of the men of might have found their hands. 6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep."

Herein, we see the picture of "***and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.***" The dead have no power to do anything. There are two things to see here. When they arose must apply to any that were not slain by the Angel of God. However, the second thought is the dead corpses arose in the morning, how? Do you remember the rich man and Lazarus, seen in: ***Lu 16:22-23; 22 "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."*** The souls, of all people who die mortally, immediately awaken to a new awareness. Those who are not saved by God's grace will know they have died and are in the place of torment. The good news of the gospel is that if you are a child of God, through mortal death, you will know that you are in heaven, in the presence of God, and your Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

7 ¶ Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? 8 Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, 9 When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah. 10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain."

"***Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven;***" Just as "***angel of the Lord***," Christ Jesus, brought judgment upon Sennacherib and his armies: so, judgment was heard upon the earth, when Jesus died upon the cross, was resurrected from the dead, and ascended back to his home in heaven. As we saw demonstrated by

God's wrath upon Sennacherib and his armies, we see the picture of how the "**the earth feared, and was still.**" Sennacherib and his remaining army could not lift their hands against God, or Jerusalem. We do not doubt that they were afraid of God at that time.

Remember, Israel had turned to idolatry and God had sent Sennacherib and his armies, filled with pride and trust in their own strength, to bring God's judicial wrath upon Israel for their sins. Because Sennacherib castigated the name of God, God heard the prayer of Hezekiah and saved Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

Remember, when Jesus was on the cross, the name of God was castigated by the satanic group who were crucifying him. God heard the prayer of Jesus and saved him, and all those God the Father gave to God the Son to save. Jesus was made sin for us and suffered the wrath of God for all the sins of all of God's chosen people. When Jesus said in ***Lu 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.***" The wrath of God towards the sins of his people was finished. God's wrath that will be poured out upon the unsaved people and their father, the devil, is yet restrained until the end of time.

One lesson we may learn here: as Hezekiah spread the bragging and defamatory words of Sennacherib before God in prayer: instead of bringing our want lists before God, I believe that we would have a more successful prayer life if we spread before God how the demonic forces of the world are boasting themselves against the word of God and his people.

11 "Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared."

When born-again, we enter a covenant relationship of betrothal to Christ. When a man and a woman are engaged to be married, they do not go about flirting, dating, or fornicating with others, until the marriage ceremony takes place. At the time of their engagement, they enter a covenant relationship of keeping themselves for each other. The same is true in the life of the child of God. We are to honor our betrothal to Christ by living in accordance with "***thus saith the Lord***" and keeping ourselves from all ungodliness.

"***bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.***" I remind you of the scripture in: ***Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***" What presents can we bring to God? We can present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. We sacrifice all to honor our betrothal to Christ. God only can "***destroy both soul and body in hell***" and is to be greatly feared.

12 "He shall cut off the spirit of princes: he is terrible to the kings of the earth."

Just as God destroyed Sennacherib and his armies, God will do so to all the kings of the earth who rise up against his name. Scripture teaches us that Jesus will come again, and when he comes all things shall be put under his feet. None shall be able to stand before him, for his power is that of creator of all things, wherefore all things are subject unto him.

When Jesus comes the second time, we have the eternal promise of God seen in: ***1Th 4:13-18; 13 ¶ "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*** Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

"***In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel.***" In Jesus Christ, God is known, revealed to God's people in the new birth, and his name is great in Israel, which encompasses every child of God. Aren't you glad, that the name that is above all names, Jesus the Christ, is known to all of God's children? ***Re 22:20 ¶ "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."*** Wherefore, we say: even so, King Jesus, come quickly, Amen! Great is the name of our God! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!