

## Psalm 75

**Title:** God Is the Judge

**Author and Date:** Asaph

**Key Verses:** Psalm 75:7, 10

**Type:** Thanksgiving or Praise

### **Outline**

- A. Thanks for God's judgment (verses 1-3).
- B. Praise for God's judgment of the wicked and righteous (verses 4-10).

### **Notes**

Title: "For the Chief Musician; *set to* Al-tashheth. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song." For "Chief Musician", see the notes on the title of Psalm 4. For "Al-tashheth", see the notes on the titles of Psalm 57-59. For "Asaph", see the notes on the title of Psalm 50 and Psalm 73.

Summary: Psalm 75 is a thanksgiving or praise psalm. God is thanked and praised for his upright judgment toward the wicked (abasing them) and the righteous (exalting them). God is praised communally by Israel ("we" in verse 1) and individually by the psalmist ("I" in verse 9). The psalmist opens with thanking God and praising him for his "name" (character) and his wondrous works (verse 1). He immediately moves to the instruction portion of his psalm that concerns the judgment of God. God judges uprightly (verse 2) and he stabilizes the earth (verse 3). God judges the arrogant (the proud boaster) and stiff-necked wicked ones (verses 4-6). He puts down the wicked and exalts the righteous (verse 7). The wicked are made to drink from the cup of God's judgment (verse 8). The psalmist closes just as he opened, with praise (verse 9). The psalmist repeats the basic thought of verse 7: the wicked are put down and the righteous are lifted (verse 10).

Verse 1: God's "name" is his person or character (Psa. 5:11; 74:7).

Verse 2: Who is speaking in this verse? Who is judging? The psalmist, God, or someone else? The psalmist is probably quoting God (God is the "I" in verses 2-4 and in verse 10). God is sovereign. He chooses the time for his judgment and he judges uprightly (justly, with equity). The words, "God says" (found in some translations), here and in verse 10, are not in the Hebrew text. They are supplied by the translators.

Verse 3: Regardless of what happens to the earth or the people, God is in control and he guarantees stability to world order. For "Selah", see the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 4: God tells the wicked not to be arrogant. One should not be envious of the arrogant (Psa. 73:3) because the arrogant will be put down by God (Psa. 75:4-7). The “horn” in this psalm (see also verse 10) is a symbol of strength and power (Psa. 18:2; 89:17; 92:10; 112:9; 132:17; 148:14). The horn of the ox or bull, for example, is its strength. The proud and wicked man will not have strength or power to be defiant when God judges him.

Verse 6: No one in any direction is able to lift up their power against God (verse 5) because he is the judge (verse 7).

Verse 7: God is sovereign. He is judge of both the wicked and the righteous (see also verse 10). Who falls and who is lifted up is his prerogative based upon his upright judgment. See also Psalm 50.

Verse 8: God is sovereign. The “cup” is the cup of God’s divine judgment that wicked men are made to drink (Psa. 11:6; 60:3; Job 21:20; Isa. 51:17; Jer. 25:15-29; Hab. 2:16; Rev. 14:10; 16:19). The “dregs” are the left-overs of that which settles to the bottom of a cup (like coffee grounds). It is the bitter part of the drink. The wicked drink all of what is in the cup of God’s judgment down to the last, bitter drop.

Verse 10: The wicked are rendered powerless while the righteous are given power.

## **Questions**

1. What does the psalmist do and why does he do it (verse 1)?
2. What do men tell (verse 1)?
3. How does God judge (verse 2)?
4. What does God do with the earth (verse 3)?
5. What does God say to the arrogant and wicked (verses 4 and 5)?
6. What does not come from the east, west, or south (verse 6)?

7. What does God the judge do (verse 7)?
8. What is in the hand of the Lord (verse 8)?
9. What do the wicked drink (verse 8)?
10. What does the psalmist promise to do (verse 9)?
11. What does God do to the horns of the wicked and the horns of the righteous (verse 10)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. God does wondrous works (verse 1). What must we do with the wondrous works of God (Psa. 26:7; 71:17; 78:4) and why (Psa. 78:11, 32)?
2. God has a set time for judgment (verse 2). God is the judge (verse 7). What can man not escape (Rom. 2:3)? Where will we stand one day (Rom. 14:10)? Who does God judge (Heb. 12:23)?
3. God puts down some people and exalts others (verses 7 and 10). What does Hannah pray concerning God's judgment that is similar to Psalm 75 (1 Sam. 2:1-10)? Who does not stand in God's sight (Psa. 5:5)? What does God give to the proud (Psa. 94:2, 4)? What did God do to Nebuchadnezzar and why (Dan. 4:17, 32, 35). What does Mary bless concerning God's judgment that is similar to Psalm 75 (Lk. 1:46-55)? What does God do to the proud and to the humble (Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).