

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 76

12/31/12

Vs. 1-3 mention the place of the victory;
Vs. 4-6 describe the strength of the victory;
Vs. 7-12 point the praise to the Power behind the victory.

There seems to be consensus that this Psalm was written concerning the invasion of Judah and attack on Jerusalem by Assyrian King, Sennacherib ([2 Kings 18-19](#); [Isaiah 37:1-38](#)) in Hezekiah's day. This Psalm is one of victory by God's power, not man.

Verses 1-3: [Isaiah 37:31-33](#) seem to form the outline for these verses in the Psalm. God's reputation is great in: (**verse 1**) Judah (the Southern Kingdom), Israel (the Northern Kingdom), (**verse 2**) Salem (the chosen city, Jerusalem, where the "tabernacle" was built), Zion (the Holy mount upon which the tabernacle dwelt). In **verse 3**, we find the thought of [Isaiah 37:33](#): it is impossible to shoot broken arrows, protect with broken shields, or attack with broken swords!

Verses 4-6: God distinguished His Mount above all other mounts (**verse 4**). With the Assyrian weapons broken, they were "plundered," put in the "sleep" of death, and their hands were idled (**verse 5**). **Verse 6** shows the suddenness and completeness with which "the angel of the LORD" killed 185,000 Assyrians.

Verses 7-12: God has distinguished Himself above all "gods" (**verse 7**), because "God arose to judgment" like no other "god" could (**verses 8-9**). "All the oppressed of the earth," in this historical setting, referred to all of God's People back then who had suffered in the invasion of Assyria. Since "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" ([James 1:20](#)), then man's wrath can only bring a response from God that will defeat it. God's righteousness wins over man's wrath every time! What's left over of man's wrath only strengthens God's resolve to defeat it (**verse 10**). Vows of obedience should only be made to God, but must be kept (**verse 11**; [Ecclesiastes 5:4-6](#)), and "presents" of sacrifice belong only to God! To "cut off the spirit of princes" is to use an expression for a gardener or farmer to sever the harvest from its plant (**verse 12**)!

One may now understand why the description is given in [Revelation 14:14-20](#) to show God's wrath harvesting those who persecuted Christians before the Destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, God "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in

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this age but also in that which is to come” ([Ephesians 1:20-21](#)). Truly, “there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” ([Romans 13:1](#)), and can be brought down by God ([Ezekiel 31:18](#)).

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