

Part 2 – Who Will Be Able to Stand?

In part 1 we learned that this is another Psalm or song, which means it was not only to be used for learning (meditating on) but also to sing and play instruments, with to praise, the Lord (YHVH). And it's also another Psalm of Asaph, who was one of the chief musicians in David's day. But, since it's not clear when this Psalm/Song was written, it could have been written by (or for) another man named Asaph who had the same job/duty of the original one. And this Psalm was to be sung in praise for the Lord (YHVH) *because* it taught us how God became famous in Israel, Judah and Jerusalem during the days this Psalm was written. And His fame was made known because of the *great* might that He fought the enemy with. He utterly *crushed* (broke into pieces) *all* the mighty men's weapons of war. While there had been heathen nations (filled with morally deprived men) that conquered, and spoiled, smaller nations – they themselves were mightily conquered by God *Almighty*. And they were *totally defenseless* (helpless) against His *mighty* weapons of war. And this is the thought we pick up with in the Psalm...

Psalm 76

6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.

The horse and chariot were, at that time, the most *ferocious* way to fight; one might liken them to tanks, bombs or even drones of our 'modern' warfare. The word '**rebuke**' means *a chiding* (#1606) and the words '**cast into a dead sleep**' mean *to stun*, i.e. *stupefy with sleep or death* (#7290). And the word 'God' here is again '*Elohiym*' (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. The phrase 'God of Jacob' was also used in the last chapter (Ps 75:9) and it means the 'God of Grace', who met Jacob when he had nothing, and deserved nothing but wrath. Indeed, God showed Jacob, and his descendants, grace (and mercy) many times throughout their history and continues to do so to this day (John 1:14,17; Col 1:6, Rev 22:21). So, compared to our Heavenly Father, not even the best weapons of war 'hold a candle' to him. He is *far* more powerful than *anything* we have, or can come up with, to fight. And, even though Satan and his fallen angels will try to fight against Jesus Christ when He returns, they too won't be able to stand against Him when He returns to pour out God's 'cup of wrath' at His Second Advent. And, at the end of the Millennium – when Satan again stirs up people on the earth to fight against Jesus Christ – God will again reveal His mighty power by stopping them 'dead in their tracks', as Rev 20:7-10 well documents. So, this verse is again praising God for His ability to fight against the wicked ones. It also brings to memory how He annihilated the Egyptian army when they chased Israel into the Red Sea (Ex 14). As the 'celebration song' so beautifully declares...

1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

*3 **The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.***

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Ex 15:1-11

As we learned back in Ps 71:19, which also gave God the same praise as vs 11 above does (*who is like unto thee O God*), this was the *highest* praise that could be given in those days. For, it was a figure of speech that meant NO ONE is like unto our God (Yehovah). He is God above all Gods, King above all kings and Lord above all lords. As Moses said in Deut 10:17-18: *For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a **great God, a mighty, and a terrible**, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. And, as Deut 32:4, so profoundly declares: *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a **God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he...****

Psalms 76

7 Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?

The word ‘**feared**’ here means both to **fear** and to **revere** (#3372); and truly, we should do *both* when it comes to God Almighty (Yehovah). We *should* have great honor and reverence for Him but we should *also* fear Him, in that we fear to do evil. As Prov 16:6 says: *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil*. And, because there is no one more powerful, intelligent, righteous and holy than our Heavenly Father, He truly should be feared in both ways) over anyone else. As Ps 96:4-5 so rightly declares: *For the **LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are***

*idols: but **the LORD made the heavens**. And then the Psalmist asks who can ‘stand in His sight’ when He is angry. And the answer is that *no one* can! As God promised...*

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

*23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, **That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.***

*24 Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and **all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.***

25 In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Isa 45:22-25

In Rom 14:11 Paul quotes verse 23 above but adds that: *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*. So, the reference is that, when God gets ready to judge, no one can stand up to Him. And therefore, when Jesus Christ returns, no one will be able to remain standing; not even the wicked ones who *will* try and fight against Him (Rev 16:14). And that’s why, in his letter to the Philippians, Paul again quoted Isa 45:23 and explained that God has highly exalted Jesus Christ and has given Him a ‘name’ (power and authority) that is high above every name (anyone else’s power and authority) – just as Jesus explained in Mth 29:18-20 – and that is why ‘at the name of Jesus Christ’ *every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth* (Phil 2:9-11). And why will even the things ‘under’ the earth be forced to bow a knee? Several Scriptures tell us plainly...

*17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and **the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.***

18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

*19 And **they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.***

20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

*21 **To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.***

*22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: **for wherein is he to be accounted of?***

Isa 2:17-22

*12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a **great earthquake**; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Rev 6:12-17

So, the reason that that ‘things *under* the earth’ are included in Phil 2:11 is because there will be people hiding in (under) the earth to avoid the wrath of Jesus Christ when He returns! Indeed, there’s been news about the ‘elite’ making underground bunkers in case there is an ‘event’ that would destroy the world. While some claim this to be some natural catastrophe, the reality is that some ‘elite rulers’ are truly afraid of God’s wrath and are planning (even now) to try and escape it! But, it will be to no avail. Because when Jesus Christ returns, the earth will quake so much (as Rev 6 tells us) that no one will be safe. And, as Scriptures such as Isa 24:17-23, Matt 13:40-42, 47-50, Matt 24:29-31, 25:31-46; Mark 13:24-27, Rev 20:1-5 clearly explain, Jesus’ mighty angels (who return with Him in awesome flying vehicles) will gather all people for judgment. And this includes the wicked ones, who were once arrogant and boastful, but will be cowering in underground bunkers trying to avoid the wrath of the Lamb. But, as God promised in Zeph 1:12: *And it shall come to pass at that time, that **I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.*** So, every area will be searched diligently to gather all people (good and bad alike) and no one will escape God’s wrath... no one, that is, *except* those who remain loyal to Him. And Jesus clearly tells us that He will protect His faithful servants and gather them to Him (in Jerusalem, not in the sky or heaven) so they can serve Him (*on earth*) during the Millennium (which is also when they’ll be rewarded with eternal life, Mth 24:30-31). And, as Deut 32:40 and Isa 43:11-13 tell us, when God is ready to judge, there is *no one* that can escape it (i.e. ‘deliver out of His hand’).

And we should also understand the word ‘stand’ here in vs 7 (Ps 76) when the question is asked ‘*who may stand in Thy sight once Thou art angry*’? While the Hebrew word does indeed mean to stand (#5975), there’s more to this question than ‘meets the eye’. And the prophet Nahum, which asked the same question, gives us insight into this...

*2 God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, **and is furious;** the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.*

*3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and **will not at all acquit the wicked:** the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.*

4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Nah 1:2-7

Notice how Nahum explains who God's wrath is directed at: His adversaries and enemies, who are the *wicked* ones. As Rom 1:18 says: *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.* And Col 3:6 also tells us that *the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.* But, if you are a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, *God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Thess 5:9). And Paul explains further *why* those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ (and being faithful is a critical point here), will be spare God's wrath when Jesus Christ returns...

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Rom 5:7-11

It is our faith in Jesus Christ that causes us to be saved from His wrath when Jesus Christ returns. Essentially this means we are *not rebelling* against Him, but *serving Him*. To reiterate, His wrath is not directed at those who remain faithful to Him, which Paul also explains elsewhere in the book of Romans...

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Rom 2:5-8

So again, God's wrath is *only* directed at those who deserve it. And, while we all fall short of God's glory (His Laws) and sin at times (Rom 3:23), there's a huge difference between loving our Heavenly Father and sincerely trying to obey Him (and just 'missing the mark' sometimes) verses those who are *actively* rebelling against God; who don't care about obeying Him and don't even try to do what's right. Those people (who are wicked and 'workers of iniquity') will be the ones who God's wrath is directed at; *not* those who love and obey Him *faithfully*. As such, the only ones who will be able to 'stand' at the 'day of vengeance' (i.e. when He is angry, which is when Jesus Christ returns to pour out God's 'cup of wrath') are *those who He is not angry at!* That makes sense, doesn't it? As Jesus Himself said...

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

Jesus warned us to guard our heart (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) *carefully* so we're *not distracted* by lust, and pride and other 'cares of this life' - so that 'that day' (Jesus' return) doesn't sneak up on us. His point is that: it's all too easy to get wrapped up in 'things of the world' (1 John 2:15-17) and stop caring about serving (obeying and loving) our Heavenly Father. When we let our heart become corrupted, then we *won't* be worthy to escape God's wrath and 'stand' before the Son of man (Jesus Christ). To better understand why Jesus warned us about this, check out the studies on Apostasy below. For apostasy is what Jesus was *clearly* warning us about...

The Apostasy – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>

The Apostasy – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/500>

The Apostasy – Part 3 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/501>

So, those who are found faithful (and don't worship false gods or idols – like Satan and his wicked beast governing system) are the *only* ones who will escape God's wrath when Jesus Christ returns. But, that also means they'll be able to 'stand before' Jesus Christ. And what does that mean? When the angel, Gabriel, told Zacharias that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a child (John the Baptist) that would be the promised prophet to turn many to the Lord, making them ready for Jesus Christ's first advent (Luke 1:16-17), Zacharias doubted the angel and asked for a sign. This slightly ticked Gabriel off (understandably) and, as proof for his authority, he said: *I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings* (Luke 1:19). And, as further proof of his authority, he told Zacharias

that he would be ‘dumb’ (literally unable to speak) until John was born. But, the point to our study is that ‘standing in the presence of God’ meant that *he served God Almighty*. And that’s what ‘standing before Jesus Christ’ means too. While sometimes to ‘stand’ before someone simply means for judgment (Detu 10:17) or to be able to speak to ruler (Ex 8:20, 9:11,13), it also means to serve (1 Sam 16:22, Dan 1:5-7), which is what it means here in Ps 76:7. And that’s why it is written...

*5 Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
6 And hath **made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Rev 1:5-6

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

*10 And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***

Rev 5:9-10

*4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:4-5

*15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall **stand before me** to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:*

*16 They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, **to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.***

Ezek 44:15-16

So clearly, only those who God is *not* angry will *avoid His wrath* when Jesus Christ returns. And, consequently, *they will* be able to ‘stand before’ Jesus Christ *because they’ll be serving in His eternal government* – not only judging but also teaching the truth to those who did not make the ‘first resurrection’, which is when Jesus Christ gives us eternal life, which is when He *shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body*, as Paul explains in Phil 3:21. So, while many people have, and still do, and will continue to try and fight against God Almighty (and Jesus Christ), the ‘bottom line’ is that *there truly is no fighting against Him*.

While He *puts up with* their puny efforts to fight against Him, His patience *will* run out eventually; i.e. once His plan of salvation in this flesh earth age is *complete* (2 Pt 3:9-12). And *then*, **all** the world (and heaven as well as under the earth) will see how God Almighty is *truly* the God above all gods, and He has made His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the King of kings forever. And, **if** we remain faithful to Him, we can be assured that *they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee* (Jer 1:19) ...

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

*12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

1 Tim 6:6-12

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.