

Friday, January 13 – Psalm 75

Hi everyone! Welcome to Symphony's daily devotionals. Today's passage comes from Psalm 75.

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

[1] We give thanks to you, O God;
 we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds.

[2] "At the set time that I appoint
 I will judge with equity.
[3] When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants,
 it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah
[4] I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,'
 and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;
[5] do not lift up your horn on high,
 or speak with haughty neck.'"

[6] For not from the east or from the west
 and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,
[7] but it is God who executes judgment,
 putting down one and lifting up another.
[8] For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup
 with foaming wine, well mixed,
and he pours out from it,
 and all the wicked of the earth
 shall drain it down to the dregs.

[9] But I will declare it forever;
 I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
[10] All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
 but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

Psalm 75 is a song of praise, giving thanks to God for his nearness and his justice. It starts and ends with thanksgiving and praise. The Jews in exile praise God for preserving them. And as they recount all of his wondrous deeds, they remember what he has done for Israel and they find comfort in knowing that the LORD will judge the earth with equity. It's easy to feel lost and discouraged in the moment. But there's something so powerful about slowing down, remembering and recounting the God of faithfulness and justice in our lives. It gives us hope and peace to trust God in the midst of trials and persecutions.

The psalmist writes verses 2-5 in quotes, sharing a prophetic message of hope from the LORD. It says that in his own time, he will judge the earth with equity. Many might feel like the world is in their hands, but when the earth and all its inhabitants shake, God is the One who preserves his

creation order and rebukes the boastful and wicked. He will put down those who neither know him nor trust him. On the flipside, verses 7 and 10 say that he will lift up the righteous.

The psalm references the word “horn” several times. According to Charles Spurgeon, the horn is a symbol of honor, strength, and victory. When possessed by the arrogant, the horn is said to be put down, cut off, or humbled. When possessed by the righteous, the horn is lifted up. God had promised the exiled Jews that salvation and deliverance will come and their horns will be lifted up. And for that reason, the psalmist sang praises to the God of Jacob.

Today, we can also sing praise to our God because he has lifted up and will lift up a horn of salvation for us. Zecharias, the father of John the Baptist, was inspired to prophesy about the physical and spiritual deliverance that Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of David and Son of God, would bring. In Luke 1:68-72, Zecharias talks about the horn as a symbol of victory in Christ. He says this:

[68] Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
[69] and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
[70] as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
[71] that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
[72] to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant, ...

Jesus Christ, the anointed One, came the first time to die in our place as our Savior. He was put down in our stead so that we might be lifted up in Him. The horn of salvation was lifted up in victory over sin and death. And He will return the second time with power, lifting up the horn of salvation to defeat all enemies and establish the Kingdom of God.