Analysis of

Psalm 76

Elohim, Resident of Zion, and Angry Defender of Israel and of the Humble of the Earth, Is To Be Feared by Israeli and Gentile Alike, for He Comes to Judge
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Elohim, Resident of Zion, and Angry Defender of Israel and of the Humble of the Earth, Is To Be Feared by Israeli and Gentile Alike, for He Comes to Judge

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

A1 ELOHIM'S ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL 76:1-3

A2 ELOHIM'S DEFENSE OF JACOB 76:4-6

A3 THE FEARSOMENESS OF ELOHIM'S JUDGMENT 76:7-10

A4 THE WARNING TO SUBMIT IN FEAR TO YAHWEH ELOHIM 76:11-12
Psalm 76

Elohim, Resident of Zion, and Angry Defender of Israel and of the Humble of the Earth, Is To Be Feared by Israeli and Gentile Alike, for He Comes to Judge

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.

A1 ELOHIM'S ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL  76:1-3
   B1 His Great Name is Known in Judah and Israel  76:1
   B2 His Residence is in Jerusalem and Zion  76:2
   B3 He is the Defender of Jerusalem and Zion  76:3

A2 ELOHIM'S DEFENSE OF JACOB  76:4-6
   B1 Elohim's Bright Majesty  76:4
   B2 Elohim's Defeat of Enemy Troops  76:5-6

A3 THE FEARSOMENESS OF ELOHIM'S JUDGMENT  76:7-10
   B1 The Fearsomeness of Elohim  76:7
   B2 The Fearful Reaction (of the Wicked) on Earth to Elohim's Judgment from Heaven  76:8
   B3 Elohim's Judgment Saves (Only) the Humble of the Earth  76:9
   B4 Elohim Uses the Wrath of Man to Praise Himself  76:10

A4 THE WARNING TO SUBMIT IN FEAR TO YAHWEH ELOHIM  76:11-12
   B1 The Warning to Israelis  76:11
   B2 The Warning to the Nations (Gentiles)  76:12
Psalm 76

Elohim, Resident of Zion, and Angry Defender of Israel and of the Humble of the Earth, Is To Be Feared by Israeli and Gentile Alike, for He Comes to Judge

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph, a Song.


A1 ELOHIM'S ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL  76:1-3

B1 His Great Name is Known in Judah and Israel  76:1

C1 {1} God is known in Judah;

C2 His name is great in Israel.

B2 His Residence is in Jerusalem and Zion  76:2

C1 {2} His tabernacle is in Salem;

C2 His dwelling place also is in Zion.

B3 He is the Defender of Jerusalem and Zion  76:3

C1 {3} There He broke the flaming arrows,

C2 The shield and the sword and the weapons of war. Selah.

A2 ELOHIM'S DEFENSE OF JACOB  76:4-6

B1 Elohim's Bright Majesty  76:4

C1 {4} You are resplendent,

C2 More majestic than the mountains of prey.

B2 Elohim's Defeat of Enemy Troops  76:5-6

C1 The Paralysis of the Warriors  76:5

D1 {5} The stouthearted were plundered,

D2 They sank into sleep;

D3 And none of the warriors could use his hands.
C2 The Death of the Warriors 76:6

D1 {6} At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob,

D2 Both rider and horse were cast into a dead sleep.

A3 THE FEARSOMENESS OF ELOHIM'S JUDGMENT 76:7-10

B1 The Fearsomeness of Elohim 76:7

C1 He is to be Feared: {7} You, even You, are to be feared;

C2 No One Can Stand before Him when He is Angry: And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?

B2 The Fearful Reaction (of the Wicked) on Earth to Elohim's Judgment from Heaven 76:8

C1 The Hearing of His Judgment from Heaven: {8} You caused judgment to be heard from heaven;

C2 The Earth's Fearful Quietness: The earth feared and was still

B3 Elohim's Judgment Saves (Only) the Humble of the Earth 76:9

C1 The Occasion - God Arising to Judge: {9} When God arose to judgment,

C2 The Beneficial Aspect of His Judgment - Saving Earth's Humble: To save all the humble 1 of the earth. Selah.

B4 Elohim Uses the Wrath of Man to Praise Himself 76:10

C1 Elohim Uses (Wicked) Man's Wrath to Praise Himself: {10} For the wrath of man shall praise You; 2

C2 Elohim Vents His Own Wrath Sparingly (by Destroying the Wicked while Sparing the Humble): With a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.

1 76:9 - humble: NIV translates 'anav here "afflicted." That is a possible translation, but NASB's "humble" and KJV's "meek" is preferable because the contrast in the context is not between poverty and wealth, but between the humble believers in God and the arrogant, wicked rebels against Him. For a similar usage as in this context see the description of Moses as being the most humble man on the face of the earth (Num. 12:3), as well as the contrast between the wicked and the humble in Ps. 37:10-11.

2 76:10 - wrath of man: Elohim turns the things about which (wicked) man is angry to praise Himself and He restrains His own wrath in judging the earth (by destroying the wicked yet saving the humble).
A4  THE WARNING TO SUBMIT IN FEAR TO YAHWEH ELOHIM  76:11-12

B1  The Warning to Israelis  76:11

C1  Make and Keep Your Vows to Yahweh:  \textit{\{11\}} Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill \textit{them};

C2  Bring Him Gifts, for He is to be Feared:  Let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared.

B2  The Warning to the Nations (Gentiles)  76:12

C1  He Will Destroy the Rebellion of Princes:  \textit{\{12\}} He will cut off the spirit of princes;

C2  The Earth's Kings Will Fear Him:  He is feared by the kings of the earth.