Psalm 76 The Victorious Power of the God of Jacob.

1 God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

2 His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

3 There He broke the flaming arrows, The shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah

4 You are resplendent, More majestic than the mountains of prey.

5 The stout-hearted were plundered They sank into sleep;
And none of the warriors could use his hands.

6 At Your rebuke, God of Jacob,
Both rider and horse were cast into a dead sleep.

7 You, You indeed are to be feared,
And who may stand in Your presence, once You are angry?

8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven;
The earth feared and was still

9 When God arose to judgment,
To save all the humble of the earth. Selah

10 For the wrath of mankind shall praise You;
You will encircle Yourself with a remnant of wrath.

11 Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them;
All who are around Him are to bring gifts to Him who is to be feared.

12 He will cut off the spirit of princes;
He is feared by the kings of the earth.

Paul's observations and insights

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

- Why is God's name being honoured, important to God?
- What is it 'to be known'?
- How does anyone get the reputation of having a 'great name'?
- Israel is chosen by God to represent Him on earth?
- God had made for Himself a home in Zion, but now He has made for Himself a home in our spirits.
- For God to 'break weapons of war', is for Him to take charge of all matters of division.
- Interesting how the psalms put a selah/rest in, after this statement.
- The ultimate exultation word is resplendent - very high praise.
- Stout-hearted are unexpectantly brought low, despite their great power and capability.
- To sleep is to be brought into death.
- Their great might was neutralised.
- The word of God accomplishes His will and intention, and no army can stop God's word from being fulfilled.
- What is the value in saying, 'you, you'?
- The 'term indeed', is the declaration statement. For example, 'widow indeed' was a widow without dependents, as opposed to a widow with dependents.
- 'To be feared', is to identify a judgement, pending execution.

- God’s anger only has one outcome - punishment for the guilty!
- Only the innocent can stand in the presence of a holy God.
- ‘The calm before the storm’ is a scary silence!
- Heaven is the only place a holy judgement can be administered from.
- Who are ‘the humble’?
- Why does God need to stand when He administers the sentence
- ‘The remnant’ are the redeemed, who have escaped the judgement through Gods provision of salvation.
- Despite the sentence, humanity will agree with Gods righteous judgement and even celebrate the verdict.
- If we promise God something, He will never forget what we promised.
- It’s important to God for us to do what we say we will do.
- It is in awe and wonder that we approach Gods holy presence.
- The gifts we bring to God are a broken and contrite heart.
- For God to ‘cut off’ is to remove from the place of privilege to the place of poverty.
- No king can, or will, ever stand as a true enemy of God, they will all bow the knee.

Take Home

- A hymn celebrating the Lord's invincible power in defence of Jerusalem, His royal city.
- The instruction to praise God who vanquishes all His enemies.
- The psalm shows God is not distant, that He still dwells in Zion. He is Israel's God who ends their wars.
- God is present in Zion, but He sovereignly rules from heaven.
- The idea of a sovereign being "feared" in the ancient world, was the same as we use the word ‘awed’.
- God is worshiped because He is just and holy and will not tolerate the ungodly who oppress His people.
- The closing verses call Israel to acknowledge God with gratitude.
- Let the nations acknowledge Gods sovereign rule with tribute.

- Have you made promises to God and have you kept those promises?