



VINTAGE**CHURCH**

PSALM 76

Reading Guide

June 15- 21, 2014

PSALM 76

1 *In Judah God is known;
his name is great in Israel.*
2 *His abode has been established in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.*
3 *There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah*

4 *Glorious are you, more majestic
than the mountains full of prey.*
5 *The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil;
they sank into sleep;
all the men of war
were unable to use their hands.*
6 *At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both rider and horse lay stunned.*

7 *But you, you are to be feared!
Who can stand before you
when once your anger is roused?*
8 *From the heavens you uttered judgment;
the earth feared and was still,*
9 *when God arose to establish judgment,
to save all the humble of the earth. Selah*

10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise you;
the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.*
11 *Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them;
let all around him bring gifts
to him who is to be feared,*

12 *who cuts off the spirit of princes,
who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.*



DAY 1

Read through Psalm 76 once writing down what you find interesting, what you find helpful, and what you don't fully understand.

According to the introductory notes on Psalm 76 in the *ESV Study Bible*, "This is a hymn celebrating Zion as the place God has chosen to dwell, and the capital of the people God has chosen to bless and protect."

The old hymn "God is Known Among His People" captures many of the themes in this Psalm well.

God is known among His people;
Every mouth His praises fill
From of old he has established
His abode on Zion's hill.
There He broke the sword and arrow,
Bade the noise of war be still.

Excellent and glorious art Thou,
With Thy trophies from the fray;
Thou hast slain the valiant-hearted
Wrapped in sleep of death are they;
When Thy anger once is risen,
Who can stand in that dread day?

When from heaven Thy sentence sounded,
All the earth in fear was still,
While to save the meek and lowly
God in judgment wrought His will;
E'en the wrath of man shall praise Thee,
Thy design it shall fulfill.

Vow and pay ye to Jehovah,
Him your God forever own;
All men, bring your gifts before him;
Worship Him and Him alone;
Mighty kings obey and fear Him,
Princes bow before His throne.

Read through the notes on Psalm 76 in the *ESV Study Bible*. Write at least one paragraph highlighting what you learned from the study notes.

Reread Psalm 76, personalizing the Psalm as your own prayer. Write out that prayer.



DAY 2

Read Psalm 76 again, focusing on verses 7-12.

Commentator Derek Kidner says verses 10 is “one of the most striking sayings in the Psalter.”¹ Read verse 10a until you understand why it is so striking.

Peter made a similar comment in Acts 2:23: “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

Based on God’s power, described in verse 10, and his power demonstrated in the death and resurrection of Jesus, write out a prayer of praise to God.

DAY 3

Read Psalm 76 again, focusing on verses 1-6.

Following the pattern of verses 1-6, write out a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God, thanking and praising him for some specific ways he has protected you.

DAY 4

Read Psalm 76 again.

Read through the prayers you’ve prayed during the past three days. Consider how those prayers build confidence in God and encourage your trust in him.

Based on what you read in Psalm 76, write out a prayer on behalf of your church, praising God for the ways he has and will continue to protect it.

¹ D. Kidner, *Psalms 73-150*. Downers Grove, IL (InterVarsity Press, 1973), p. 275.



DAY 5

Read through Psalm 76 twice.

Write out at least two paragraphs reflecting on what you've learned about God, yourself, and others from Psalm 76. Write out at least one thing you hope to apply to your life from Psalm 76.

Spend at least 15 minutes sharing what you wrote with a trusted friend or family member. If they read Psalm 76 this week, ask them to do the same. End your time in prayer, thanking God for what he taught you this week.

*Purchasing an ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Bibles, 2008.) will aid you in your understanding of the Psalms. The first day's reading each week assumes you will have access to the notes in the ESV Study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. It will help you understand not just the Psalms, but also the rest of the Bible in a deeper way. You can either buy the Bible (amazon.com, search: ESV Study Bible) or purchase online access to the notes at www.esvbible.org.

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