

## Psalm 75

The Psalm begins with thanksgiving - but for what?

- God's Judgement!

To understand how we can join in with this Psalm we need to understand God's judgment.

Remember the context of this Psalm - it comes after Psalm 74 which was set during the exile and which called on God to 'Rise up'. Though it may not have been written with Psalm 74 in mind, it has been put next to that Psalm as an answer to that call.

Verse 7 gives us the structure for this sermon:

1. God brings down

But who does God bring down?

- see verses 4+5
- A horn is a symbol of power and status
- To raise your horn is to puff yourself up and make a claim about your power and status
- We see in verses 6+7 and 10 that God brings down the arrogant, those who lift their horns to heaven

There is a great example of this in Daniel 4

- King Nebuchadnezzar was boasting of his achievements (v30)
- but what happened to him...? (read verses 31-33)

God brings down the arrogant:

- A warning to oppressors - rulers or abusers!
- But a warning to us too - because we have arrogance in our hearts too.

Verse 8 tells us the cup of judgment is ready!

Thankfully God doesn't just bring down...

## 2. God exalts

But who does God exalt?

See verse 10 - the righteous.

But who are the righteous?

- It can't be the 'self-righteous' - they are arrogant and we know already that God brings down the arrogant.
- So...who are they?

Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 didn't stay in the wilderness, he was lifted up. Why? See Daniel 4 verses 34-37

- He humbled himself
- He recognised God's kingship and sovereignty
- He saw he was dependent on God

So we need to see our righteousness is not something we can brag about - but is something depend on God to give us.

Paul in Romans talks about righteousness - see Romans 3 verse 22.

- Where does righteousness come from in that verse?
- From God, not me.
- We receive it by faith in Jesus and in His death
- When Jesus died he took the cup of Psalm 75 v 8 and drank it for us.
- By doing this he made it possible for us to be made righteous

So we can become righteous through faith in Jesus

The righteous are those who humble themselves before God and depend on Him to make them righteous.

God consistently lifts up those who depend on Him in the Bible e.g...

- Joseph in Genesis - from prison to Prime Minister of Egypt
- David - from Shepherd to King of Israel
- Mary - a nobody from Nazareth to being the mother of God's Son

The great news is anyone can humble themselves.

So, if you aren't a Christian, will you humble yourself and ask Jesus to make you righteous?

If you are a Christian, will you join in with the Psalmist in praising God that he is the judge?