

WHEN GOD MOVES IN JUDGMENT

PSALM 76

Introduction:

God is not indifferent to the evil that wrecks havoc on the earth. When God observes the oppressive ways of evil men, He takes note. If they persist, they will provoke God to anger. When the living God is provoked to anger, there is trouble on the earth.

Israel had a lingering memory of such a display of the judgment of God. It happened while Hezekiah was the king of Judah and Isaiah was God's prophet. The proud leaders of Assyria marched their army into Judah, and confidently laid siege to the city of Jerusalem. They taunted the people of Israel with their threats, and embodied the ultimate military confidence. Greater cities than Jerusalem had fallen before their army, and they just knew that they would plunder Jerusalem like the rest.

Unfortunately the leaders of Assyria made a serious miscalculation. They failed to take into consideration the living God who had made His home in Jerusalem. Their arrogant threats provoked Him to anger and He rose in judgment. The rest is history. In the darkness of night God spoke, and at his word one angel completely destroyed the power of the proud enemy. The few survivors hurried home to tell of a God who is awesome in power.

Wherever the story was told, it provoked fear of the God that dwelled in Salem.

Asaph celebrates this victory in this psalm. Interestingly for us, when the Pilgrims first landed on the shores of this land at what is Cape Cod today, they sang with deep gratitude to God this psalm. Its message needs to be remembered in every generation.

- I. HE DISPLAYS HIS GREATNESS.
- II. HE REVEALS HIS MERCY.
- III. HE PROVOKES REVERENCE.
- IV. HE DESTROYS HIS ENEMIES.