

Psalms 76:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?

Analysis

The psalm declares: "Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?" (Hebrew *atah nora atah u-mi-ya-amod l-faneycha me-az appekha*). The doubled "thou, even thou" emphasizes exclusivity—God alone deserves fear. "Who may stand" is rhetorical—none can endure divine anger. "When once thou art angry" warns of God's wrath. The verse inspires holy fear: if God opposes you, no defense exists. This drives believers to faith and unbelievers to flee God's wrath.

Historical Context

The rhetorical question "who may stand?" appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 130:3, Nahum 1:6, Malachi 3:2, Revelation 6:17). No one withstands God's wrath independently. Yet believers "stand" through Christ's righteousness (Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 6:13). Hebrews 12:29 warns: "our God is a consuming fire." Yet Hebrews 4:16 invites believers to approach God's throne confidently through Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does healthy fear of God (reverent awe) differ from servile terror?
2. What would it mean for God to be "angry" with you, and how does Christ's atonement address this?
3. How does standing in Christ's righteousness enable you to approach the holy God who is "to be feared"?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְּ הוּא	נ וְכָא	אֶתְּ הוּא	וְיִמִּי	יִשְׁמַח ד
H859	Thou even thou art to be feared	H859	H4310	and who may stand
	H3372			H5975
לִפְנֵי יְיָ	יִמָּא ז	אֶפְרָיִם:		
in thy sight	when	once thou art angry		
H6440	H227	H639		

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Psalms 2:12 (Parallel theme): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalms 89:7 (Parallel theme): God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.