

Psalms 76:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

Analysis

When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah. This verse reveals judgment's dual purpose: punishing the proud and "saving all the meek." "Arose" (וַיָּקֹם/qum) depicts God rising from His throne, moving from patient observation to active intervention. The metaphor suggests a judge standing to pronounce verdict or a warrior rising to battle. God's arising signals the end of apparent divine silence.

"To judgment" (לִמְשָׁפֵט/lamishpat) expresses purpose—He arose specifically to execute justice. "To save" (לִהְשִׁיבָה/lehoshia) reveals judgment's redemptive goal for the righteous. God judges not for destruction's sake but to deliver the oppressed. His wrath against evil is inseparable from His love for victims of injustice.

"All the meek of the earth" (אֲמַתִּים-עַמְּתִים/kol-anwei-erets) identifies those God saves. "Meek" (עַמְּתִים/anav) describes the humble, afflicted, lowly—those who trust God rather than military might or political power. Jesus pronounced them blessed and promised them the earth itself as inheritance (Matthew 5:5). God's judgment vindicates not the strong but the humble. "Selah" (סֶלָה/selah) calls for musical pause and meditation on this revolutionary truth.

Historical Context

The meek/humble (anav) were often socially marginalized—the poor, widows, orphans, foreigners—whose only recourse was God's justice since human courts

favored the powerful. In the context of Sennacherib's invasion, Jerusalem's inhabitants were 'meek' compared to Assyria's military superiority. They couldn't save themselves but trusted God's deliverance. This theme runs throughout Scripture: God exalts the humble and humbles the proud (1 Samuel 2:7-8, Luke 1:52, James 4:6).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to save 'all the meek' challenge worldly values that celebrate power, status, and self-promotion?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to exchange self-reliance for meekness —trusting God's vindication rather than self-defense?
3. What does it mean practically to be 'meek' in a culture that equates meekness with weakness?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹהִים	לִמְשָׁפֵט	יְמִינָה	לְהֹשִׁיעַ	כָּל	עָתִי	אֶת
arose	to judgment	When God	to save	H3605	all the meek	of the earth
H6965	H4941	H430	H3467		H6035	H776

סֶלָה:

Selah

H5542

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:4 (Judgment): But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Matthew 5:5 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Zephaniah 2:3 (Judgment): Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

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