

Psalm 76:1 (NKJV)

“In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.”

This psalm, attributed to Asaph, is traditionally linked with God's miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian army under Sennacherib (2 Kings 18–19; Isaiah 36–37). The Septuagint translators title it *“An Ode Against the Assyrian,”* pointing to the historical backdrop of God stepping in to protect His people when they were surrounded and outmatched. While not explicitly stated in the text, the tone of the psalm matches the awe and gratitude that would follow such a supernatural victory.

This first verse sets the tone by declaring that God is not a distant or generic deity—He is personally known among His people, especially in Judah and Israel. In a time when surrounding nations worshiped many gods, Israel could say with certainty: *“Our God has made Himself known.”*

“In Judah God is known” –

This is not merely an academic knowledge or a general belief in God's existence. The word “known” implies a relational, experiential knowledge. God revealed Himself to His people through His Word, through His covenant, and through mighty acts of deliverance. Judah had seen firsthand what it meant to have the living God dwell among them.

Compare Deuteronomy 4:7–8: *“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it...?”*

“His name is great in Israel” –

In biblical thought, a name represents a person's character, authority, and reputation. The greatness of God's name in Israel signifies that He had shown Himself to be powerful, faithful, and righteous. This greatness was not based on Israel's merit but on God's initiative and grace. His name was lifted high among them because of who He is and what He had done.

Reflection

This verse reflects a foundational biblical truth: God reveals Himself and desires to be known. This knowledge of God is not forced upon anyone, nor is it reserved for a pre-selected group. Instead, God takes the initiative to make Himself known to all who will respond—beginning with Israel, but ultimately extending to all nations through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

While Calvinism may stress divine determinism and Arminianism human free will, this verse simply emphasizes God's active self-revelation—not how or why some believe and others do not, but that God is gracious and personal, and makes Himself known.

Personal Application

1. Is God “known” to you personally?

It's possible to know about God without truly knowing Him. Just like Judah, we can be surrounded by religious activity and still miss the heart of knowing Him. The question is not whether you attend church or read your Bible and pray—it's whether you've come to experience the character and faithfulness of God in your life.

2. **Is His name “great” in your life?**

Do you speak of Him with reverence? Do you honor Him in the way you live, speak, and think? His name becomes great in us when we live in such a way that others see His work and worth through our words and actions.

3. **God wants to be known—not just believed in.**

The God of Scripture is not hiding. He reveals Himself through His Word, through His Spirit, and through the testimony of His people. If we seek Him, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

Closing Thought

Psalms 76:1 reminds us that God is not an abstract concept but a present, personal reality—a God who makes Himself known and whose name is worthy of praise. Just as He revealed Himself in Judah and magnified His name in Israel, He desires to be known in your life today—personally, powerfully, and faithfully.

Let us be a people in whom His name is made great.