

Psalm 78 | Lessons of Faith & God's Unfailing Love

72 verses • 6:25 reading time • World English Bible

Psalm 78

¹ A contemplation by Asaph. Hear my teaching, my people. Turn your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old, ³ which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, his strength, and his wondrous deeds that he has done. ⁵ For he established a covenant in Jacob, and appointed a teaching in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; ⁶ that the generation to come might know, even the children who should be born; who should arise and tell their children, ⁷ that they might set their hope in God, and not forget God's deeds, but keep his commandments, ⁸ and might not be as their fathers— a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that didn't make their hearts loyal, whose spirit was not steadfast with God. ⁹ The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. ¹⁰ They didn't keep God's covenant, and refused to walk in his law. ¹¹ They forgot his doings, his wondrous deeds that he had shown them. ¹² He did marvelous things in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. ¹³ He split the sea, and caused them to pass through. He made the waters stand as a heap. ¹⁴ In the daytime he also led them with a cloud, and all night with a light of fire. ¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as out of the depths. ¹⁶ He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. ¹⁷ Yet they still went on to sin against him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert. ¹⁸ They tempted God in their heart by asking food according to their desire. ¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God. They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? ²⁰ Behold, he struck the rock, so that waters gushed out, and streams overflowed. Can he give bread also? Will he provide meat for his people?" ²¹ Therefore the LORD heard, and was angry. A fire was kindled against Jacob, anger also went up against Israel, ²² because they didn't believe in God, and didn't trust in his salvation. ²³ Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven. ²⁴ He rained down manna on them to eat, and gave them food from the sky. ²⁵ Man ate the bread of angels. He sent them food to the full. ²⁶ He caused the east wind to blow in the sky. By his power he guided the south wind. ²⁷ He also rained meat on them as the dust, winged birds as the sand of the seas. ²⁸ He let them fall in the middle of their camp, around their habitations. ²⁹ So they ate, and were well filled. He gave them their own desire. ³⁰ They didn't turn from their cravings. Their food was yet in their mouths, ³¹ when the anger of God went up against them, killed some of their strongest, and struck down the young men of Israel. ³² For all this they still sinned, and didn't believe in his wondrous works. ³³ Therefore he consumed their days in vanity, and their years in terror. ³⁴ When he killed them, then they inquired after him. They returned and sought God earnestly. ³⁵ They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God, their redeemer. ³⁶ But they flattered him with their mouth, and lied to him with their tongue. ³⁷ For their heart was not right with him, neither were they faithful in his covenant. ³⁸ But he, being merciful, forgave iniquity, and didn't destroy them. Yes, many times he turned his anger away, and didn't stir up all his wrath. ³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away, and doesn't come again. ⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness, and grieved him in the desert! ⁴¹ They turned again and tempted God, and provoked the Holy One of Israel. ⁴² They didn't remember his hand, nor the day when he redeemed them from the adversary; ⁴³ how he set his signs in Egypt, his wonders in the field of Zoan, ⁴⁴ he turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, so that they could not drink. ⁴⁵ He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. ⁴⁶ He also gave their increase to the caterpillar, and their labor to the locust. ⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hail, their

sycamore fig trees with frost. ⁴⁸ He also gave over their livestock to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. ⁴⁹ He threw on them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, and a band of angels of evil. ⁵⁰ He made a path for his anger. He didn't spare their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence, ⁵¹ and struck all the firstborn in Egypt, the chief of their strength in the tents of Ham. ⁵² But he led out his own people like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. ⁵³ He led them safely, so that they weren't afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. ⁵⁴ He brought them to the border of his sanctuary, to this mountain, which his right hand had taken. ⁵⁵ He also drove out the nations before them, allotted them for an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. ⁵⁶ Yet they tempted and rebelled against the Most High God, and didn't keep his testimonies, ⁵⁷ but turned back, and dealt treacherously like their fathers. They were twisted like a deceitful bow. ⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their engraved images. ⁵⁹ When God heard this, he was angry, and greatly abhorred Israel, ⁶⁰ so that he abandoned the tent of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men, ⁶¹ and delivered his strength into captivity, his glory into the adversary's hand. ⁶² He also gave his people over to the sword, and was angry with his inheritance. ⁶³ Fire devoured their young men. Their virgins had no wedding song. ⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows couldn't weep. ⁶⁵ Then the Lord awakened as one out of sleep, like a mighty man who shouts by reason of wine. ⁶⁶ He struck his adversaries backward. He put them to a perpetual reproach. ⁶⁷ Moreover he rejected the tent of Joseph, and didn't choose the tribe of Ephraim, ⁶⁸ But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved. ⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which he has established forever. ⁷⁰ He also chose David his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ from following the ewes that have their young, he brought him to be the shepherd of Jacob, his people, and Israel, his inheritance. ⁷² So he was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.