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.