

PSALM 78

¹ A *Psalm* of instruction, of Asaph. Give heed, O my people, to my law; incline your ear to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter dark sayings *which have been* from the beginning.

³ All which we have heard and known, and our fathers have declared to us.

⁴ They were not hid from their children to a second generation; *the fathers* declaring the praises of the Lord, and His mighty acts, and His wonders which He has done.

⁵ And He raised up a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, to make it known to their children;

⁶ that another generation might know, even the sons which should be born; and they should arise and declare them to their children,

⁷ that they might set their hope on God, and not forget the works of God, but diligently seek His commandments.

⁸ That they should not be as their fathers, a perverse and provoking generation; a generation which did not set its heart right, and its spirit was not steadfast with God.

⁹ The children of Ephraim, bending and shooting *with* the bow, turned *back* in the day of battle.

¹⁰ They did not keep the covenant of God, and would not walk in His law.

¹¹ And they forgot His benefits, and His miracles which He *had* shown them;

¹² the miracles which He did before their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the plain of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea, and led them through; He made the waters to stand as *in* a bottle.

¹⁴ And He guided them with a cloud by day, and all the night with a light of fire.

¹⁵ He split a rock in the wilderness, and made them drink as in a great deep. ¹⁶ And He brought water out of the rock, and caused the waters to flow down as rivers.

¹⁷ And they sinned even more against Him; they provoked the Most High in the wilderness.

¹⁸ And they tempted God in their hearts, in asking meat for *the desire* of their souls.

¹⁹ They spoke also against God, and said, "Will God be able to prepare a table in the wilderness?"

²⁰ Forasmuch as He struck the rock, and the waters flowed, and the torrents ran abundantly; will He be able also to give bread, or prepare a table for His people?"

²¹ Therefore the Lord heard, and was provoked: and fire was kindled in Jacob, and wrath went up against Israel.

²² Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in His salvation.

²³ Yet He commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴ and rained upon them manna to eat, and gave them the bread of heaven.

²⁵ Man ate angels' bread; He sent them provision to the full.

²⁶ He removed the south wind from heaven; and by His might He brought in the south west wind.

²⁷ And He rained upon them flesh like dust, and feathered birds like the sand on the seashore.

²⁸ And they fell into the midst of their camp, round about their tents.

²⁹ So they ate, and were completely filled; and He gave them their desire. ³⁰ They were not disappointed of their desire, *but* when their food was yet in their mouth,

³¹ then the indignation of God rose up against them, and slew the fattest of them, and overthrew the choice men of Israel.

³² In the midst of all this they sinned even more, and did not believe His miracles.

³³ And their days were consumed in vanity, and their years with anxiety.

³⁴ When He slew them, they sought Him; and they returned and sought diligently after God.

³⁵ And they remembered that God was their Helper, and the Most High God was their Redeemer.

³⁶ Yet they loved Him *only* with their mouth, and lied to Him with their tongue.

³⁷ For their heart *was* not right with Him, neither were they steadfast in His covenant.

³⁸ But He is compassionate, and will forgive their sins, and will not destroy *them*; indeed, He will frequently turn away His wrath, and will not kindle all His anger.

³⁹ And He remembered that they are flesh; a wind that passes away, and does not return.

⁴⁰ How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness, *and* anger Him in a dry land!

⁴¹ Yes, they turned back, and tempted God, and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

⁴² They did not remember His hand, the day in which He delivered them from the hand of the oppressor.

⁴³ How He had worked His signs in Egypt, and His wonders in the field of Zoan;

⁴⁴ and had changed their rivers into blood, and their streams, that they should not drink.

⁴⁵ He sent the dog-fly against them, and it devoured them; and the frog, and it spoiled them.

⁴⁶ And He gave their fruit to the canker worm, and their labors to the locust.

⁴⁷ He killed their vines with hail, and their sycamores with frost.

⁴⁸ And He gave up their cattle to hail, and their substance to the fire.

⁴⁹ He sent out against them the fury of His anger, wrath, and indignation, and affliction, a message by evil angels.

⁵⁰ He made a way for His wrath; He did not spare their souls from death, but consigned their cattle to death;

⁵¹ and He struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt; the firstfruits of their labors in the tents of Ham.

⁵² And He removed His people like sheep; He led them as a flock in the wilderness.

⁵³ And He guided them with hope, and they did not fear; but the sea covered their enemies.

⁵⁴ And He brought them in to the mountain of His sanctuary, this mountain which His right hand had purchased.

⁵⁵ And He cast out the nations from before them, and made them to inherit by a line of inheritance, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

⁵⁶ Yet they tempted and provoked the Most High God, and did not keep His testimonies.

⁵⁷ And they turned back, and broke covenant, even as also their fathers; they became like a crooked bow.

⁵⁸ And they provoked Him with their high places, and moved Him to jealousy with their graven images.

⁵⁹ God heard and lightly regarded *them*, and greatly despised Israel.

⁶⁰ And He rejected the tabernacle of Shiloh, His tent where He dwelt among men.

⁶¹ And He gave their strength into captivity, and their beauty into the enemy's hand.

⁶² And He gave His people to the sword; and disdained His inheritance. ⁶³ Fire devoured their young men; and their virgins did not mourn.

⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows shall not be wept for.

⁶⁵ So the Lord awakened as one out of sleep, *and* as a mighty man who has been heated with wine.

⁶⁶ And He beat back His enemies; He brought on them a perpetual reproach.

⁶⁷ And He rejected the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim;

⁶⁸ but chose the tribe of Judah, the Mount Zion which He loved.

⁶⁹ And He built His sanctuary as *the place* of unicorns; He founded it forever on the earth.

⁷⁰ He chose David also His servant, and took him up from the flocks of sheep.

⁷¹ He took him from following the ewes great with young, to be the shepherd of Jacob His servant, and Israel His inheritance.

⁷² So he tended them in the innocence of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.