

## **PSALM 78 God's Kindness to Rebellious Israel!**

1/7/23 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

### **TRUST & OBEY** – John Sammis – Maranatha Singers (2:32)

*When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way;*

*While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Chorus: Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;*

*Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh or a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey. (Chorus)*

*But we never can prove The delights of His love, Until all on the altar we lay; For the favor*

*He shows, And the joy He bestows, Are for them who will trust and obey. (Chorus)*

*Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way;*

*What He says we will do; Where He sends, we will go, Never fear, only trust and obey. (Chorus)*

**Psalms 78** – the second longest Psalm, is the first of what they call the historic psalms. The psalmist said I'm going to give you a parable but really he is going to give to you now **a review of the history of the nation** in this psalm in a poetic form. He's going to follow the history of the nation from the beginning of it being a nation up until that present time which was the time of David's reign. In the book of Acts when Stephen was brought before the council, we find that Stephen in his defense gave to them a preview of their history. It was very important to the Jew to understand their history as it related to God and to look back and to see how God relates to the historic events of a nation. It is an important thing to see how that when that nation served and honored God they were blessed of God and prospered of God. When that nation turned against God, God delivered them into the hands of their enemies. What lesson have you learned from your life that you have watched someone else's mistakes, knowing that all of life teaches two things, either blessings or cursing from God? Do we do not have to follow after the mistakes of our fathers, falling into bondages that they fell into!

### **PSALM 78 – A Contemplation Of Asaph.**

***Psa 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.***

- He's calling them to take consideration of this now.

***Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,***

***Psa 78:3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us..***

- For the most part the stories were passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation. I'm going to tell you the things that our fathers had told us.
- We need to teach the kids to praise the Lord for his marvelous works, for his strength and for the things that God has done.

***Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.***

- We have to pass the truth on to the next generation! That is always the challenge of every generation to pass the truth of God onto the next generation! That is our calling, that is our responsibility and if we fail to do so the nation is destined to go down the tube. We can't let our children grow up in a godless society. It is imperative really to pass on the truth of God to the next generation.

***Psa 78:5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;***

- God, when he gave the law, commanded them to pass it on their children.

***Psa 78:6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children,***

- The perpetuation of the truth of God from generation to generation to generation. Thus it is our responsibility, our generation, to pass it on to the next generation. If we fail then there is chaos. Now we come to the purpose of passing on these truths of God.

***Psa 78:7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;***

- People are setting their hope in so many empty things. We know that the Bible says, “Beware when they say peace and safety for then comes sudden destruction.” That they might not have their hope in this world system, even in democracy, but they’ve got to set their hope in God. *And not forget the words of God, but keep his commandments:* It is absolutely criminal what the Supreme Court has done to our school system in the ruling out of God from the school curriculum. Declaring that it is not lawful to put the Ten Commandments up on the wall of the classroom even though it is on the walls of the Supreme Court building. Something’s wrong. You see, Satan would keep us from passing it to the next generation. When one door closes God has other ways. Let’s discover God’s ways and let’s get the truth on. We don’t want them to forget the works of God and we want to keep His commandments.

***Psa 78:8 And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.***

- We saw the affects and the results of that generation of their fathers, the disaster that came of it.

***Psa 78:9 The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle.***

- Ephraim was the greatest of the tribes and yet because they did not keep the law of God there was a weakness from a moral standpoint. Thus they turned back in the day of battle. They turned their backs to their enemies.
- They were defeated. We see the United States and the fiasco of Vietnam. Here this great powerful nation unable to win a victory in that war, which should wake us up to something is desperately wrong. With Israel, Ephraim, they turned their backs. Why? Because they kept not the covenant of God and they refused to walk in his law. There is definitely a parallel and there is an association between a nations relationship with God and their power as a nation.

***Psa 78:10 They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law,***

***Psa 78:11 And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.***

***Psa 78:12 Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.***

***Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap.***

- He is giving their history. The wonders that God did for them. They forgot these, they weren’t really impressed upon them. Their parents had not passed on the truth.

***Psa 78:14 In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire.***

***Psa 78:15 He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave them drink in abundance like the depths.***

- He opened the springs as the rock was hit and the waters gushed forth.

***Psa 78:16 He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers.***

***Psa 78:17 But they sinned even more against Him By rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness.***

- There are lessons to be learned from history. He that does not learn the lessons of history is doomed to make the same mistakes.

***Psa 78:18 And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy.***

***Psa 78:19 Yes, they spoke against God: They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?"***

***Psa 78:20 Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?"***

- Here God had just done this marvelous miracle who rather than being truly grateful they were almost cynical. “Yes, He brought water out of the rock but can God give us a table here in the wilderness? Can he give us bread and meat?”

***Psa 78:21 Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel,***

***Psa 78:22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.***

- Because they failed to just believe God and trust in God the anger of God was kindled against them.

***Psa 78:23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven,***

***Psa 78:24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.***

- Manna is the wheat of heaven.

***Psa 78:25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.***

- So God took some of the angels food and just dumped it on them there in the wilderness.

***Psa 78:26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind.***

***Psa 78:27 He also rained meat on them like the dust, Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas;***

- We read in Exodus how that the quail came flying in at the height of two cubits, thirty-six inches, perfect for batting. These guys went out with their bats, their sticks, and were whopping these quail as they came flying over. The little kids were gathering them up and stacking them in a pile. He provided them with meat until it was coming out of their nostrils. They were so greedy.

***Psa 78:28 And He let them fall in the midst of their camp, All around their dwellings.***

***Psa 78:29 So they ate and were well filled, For He gave them their own desire.***

- Be careful when God gives you your own desires because our desires are often destructive to our spirit.

***Psa 78:30 They were not deprived of their craving; But while their food was still in their mouths,***

***Psa 78:31 The wrath of God came against them, And slew the stoutest of them, And struck down the choice men of Israel.***

- The fighting men, their strength

***Psa 78:32 In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works.***

***Psa 78:33 Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear.***

- Because of this they wandered for forty-years until they died in the wilderness. Their lives were really in futility. They were just waiting to die. God swore that they would not be able to go into the land because of their unbelief.

***Psa 78:34 When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God.***

- When the judgements of God are in the land, he'll cause his people to turn to righteousness.

***Psa 78:35 Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.***

***Psa 78:36 Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue;***

- It was only a surface kind of a thing. It was "God get me out of this trouble" but it wasn't really a turning of their hearts completely to God.

***Psa 78:37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.***

- Now when people come along and tell you "I believe in the God of the New Testament, God of love and sweetness. I have a hard time with the Old Testament, a God of wrath, I have a hard time with that." What's it say?

***Psa 78:38 But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath;***

- Are we reading Old Testament or New Testament? God is compassionate. The God of the Bible. He isn't the God of the Old Testament or the New Testament, you don't have a single God and He's the same. In the New Testament, yes, we hear a lot and read about the love of God but also in the New Testament we read "But the wrath of God shall be revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth of God in unrighteousness." In both, he is revealed not only as a God full of compassion, gracious, loving and kind but also a God of truth, righteousness and judgement. Justice would have been to destroy them. Thank God for this.

***Psa 78:39 For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.***

- God looks down and he sees us in our failure and we're so upset and miserable with ourselves and God says, "O look at that, they're just flesh aren't they?" We think we are just super saints, that's our problem. We have an exalted opinion of ourselves. The Bible says, "He knows our frame that we are but dust. I'm glad that God remembers that. In my weakness he remembers that I'm just flesh."
- For you who are trusting in reincarnation to have good karma and have a better life the next time around you are like a wind who passes away and you do not come again. This is it, "cometh not again,"

***Psa 78:40 How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!***

- They came to the border of the Promised Land where they could enter into the promises of God but they turned back.

***Psa 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.***

- Here's an interesting thing. God announced himself to Abraham as El Shaddai, the Almighty God, the Omnipotent God, and yet that almighty, omnipotent God can be limited by man. Israel limited what God wanted to do for them.
- You can limit God in his desires of what he wishes to do for you. God wants to bless you. God wants to use you. God wants to use you in a mighty and powerful way but you could limit the work of God in your life. God help us that we will not put limitations by our unbelief or by our manner of life but that God will be free to do all that he is desiring to do in us in order that he might do all that he desires to do through us. They tempted God and they limited the Holy One of Israel.

***Psa 78:42 They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,***

- They forgot the power of God in their history.

***Psa 78:43 When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;***

***Psa 78:44 Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink.***

***Psa 78:45 He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them.***

***Psa 78:46 He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust.***

***Psa 78:47 He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost.***

***Psa 78:48 He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning.***

***Psa 78:49 He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them.***

- An interesting phrase here, God sending them by allowing them to come. God, I believe, does put up barriers by which he holds back those evil forces that would like to move in and take over. I believe that God has Satan under restraints, there are limitations.
- Satan complained about it in the case of Job. Sons of God presented themselves to God. Satan also came with them. God said, "Hey where have you been" and he said, "Cruising around the earth. Going up and down to and fro through it." "Have you considered my servant Job, he's a good man. Loves good and hates evil." You've given that guy everything he could ever possibly want. Anybody would serve you if you blessed him like you blessed Job. A guy would be a fool. Let me take away that which you have given him. Let me at him. Take the hedge away and I'll prove to you that guy will curse you to your face."
- The hedge, the hedge, the limitations. When a people are evil, I believe that God just removes the limitations and allows the evil angels to come amongst them to wreak havoc.

***Psa 78:50 He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague,***

***Psa 78:51 And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first of their strength in the tents of Ham.***

- The descendants of Ham populated Africa, Genesis ten.

***Psa 78:52 But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;***

- He wreaked havoc upon the Egyptians but his own people, the Israelites, they came forth like sheep.
- Here's God's flock being guided by him through the wilderness and he led them.

***Psa 78:53 And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.***

- Swallowed them up.

***Psa 78:54 And He brought them to His holy border, This mountain which His right hand had acquired.***

***Psa 78:55 He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.***

- He brought them into the land that he had promised to Abraham. He fulfilled his word and his promises to them.

***Psa 78:56 Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies,***

***Psa 78:57 But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; They were turned aside like a deceitful bow.***

- A deceitful bow is a bow that would break. You are in battle and you go to draw your bow but the thing snaps. You can't depend upon it. So the people, they snapped. You couldn't depend upon them.
- Now we come to the period of history during the period of judges. God had brought them in and he gave them the land under Joshua. They divided the land as an inheritance. Yet, now in the land blessed of God, they turn their backs on God and deal unfaithfully with him like their fathers did.

***Psa 78:58 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.***

- They began to build places to worship.

***Psa 78:59 When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel,***

***Psa 78:60 So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men,***

- When they first came into the land Ephraim was the major tribe, a descendent of one of the sons of Joseph. The tribe of Ephraim was figured by its size and nature to be the dominant tribe. Thus they set the tabernacle, that they had in the wilderness, in the tribe of Ephraim in the city of Shiloh. The tabernacle remained in Shiloh for many, many years. At some period of time the tabernacle was moved to Gibeah. So that at the time of Samuel the tabernacle was then in Gibeah but it was originally in Shiloh. This is a reference that he forsook the tabernacle.
- It's a tragic thing when God leaves the church. Jesus said to the church of Ephesus, *"I know your works, your patience, your discernment but I have this against you. You left your first love. Therefore I want you to remember from where you are fallen. I want you to repent. I want you to go back and do your first works over or else I will come and remove the candlestick out of its place."*
- How important that we remain in the love of Jesus Christ. That love be a predominant factor and feature of the church. That we don't get puffed up and so interested in our self that we are not reaching out in love to others. So he forsook the tabernacle even as he has forsaken in many places the church.

***Psa 78:61 And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand.***

- Here's Ephraim, the strength; he gave them into captivity into his enemy's hands.

***Psa 78:62 He also gave His people over to the sword, And was furious with His inheritance.***

***Psa 78:63 The fire consumed their young men, And their maidens were not given in marriage.***

- The nation was wiped out. The young people were destroyed.

***Psa 78:64 Their priests fell by the sword, And their widows made no lamentation.***

***Psa 78:65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine.***

***Psa 78:66 And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach.***

***Psa 78:67 Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,***

- The tabernacle was moved from Shiloh, the tribe of Joseph. He refused to choose the tribe of Ephraim as the governing tribe.

***Psa 78:68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.***

- They are of Jerusalem.

***Psa 78:69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever.***

***Psa 78:70 He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds;***

- I love this.

***Psa 78:71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.***

- God reminded David of his humble beginnings when the prophet came to him and said, "The Lord took you from the sheep coat, from following after the sheep and he made you the ruler over his people. David never forgot those humble beginnings. God's training for David to be king was putting him over a bunch of sheep and making him responsible for those sheep. Learning to take care of them learning to have great concern for their needs and for their welfare. That was great grooming for the ruling over the people of God. So God made David to feed Jacob his people.

***Psa 78:72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.***

- A beautiful parable giving us the history and lessons to be learned. Lessons that we need to pass on to our children, to the next generation, if we are to survive.

**GREAT IS THE LORD (HALLELUJAH)** – Paul Wilbur/written and performed by/Sarah Liberman (4:01)

*(Psa 78:4) We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*

*(2Sa 6:13-15) And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. [14] Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. [15] So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.*

Chorus - Great is the Lord And greatly to be praised In the city of God in His holy place  
Verse 1 - We come before Your throne O God of our joy We bring You The fruit of our lips  
And remember the great things You did for us

Chorus - Gadol Adonai ume-hulal m'od B'ir Eloheinu B'har kodsho *(our God, holiness)*  
Verse 2 - Behold the glory of God Is now with us The people of God will arise He will wipe  
every tear From our eyes And sorrow and mourning Will cease forevermore

Bridge - Hallelujah For the Lord God Almighty reigns Hallelujah Lord of Hosts the Almighty reigns  
Hallelujah Ki malach Adonai Eloheinu Hallelujah Ki malach Elohei Tzvaot

Verse 3 - Nagila v'nismecha V'niten lo kavod Nagila v'nismecha V'niten lo kavod  
- Rejoice oh my soul rejoice And give Him praise Rejoice oh my soul rejoice And give Him praise

Bridge -Hallelujah For the Lord God Almighty reigns Hallelujah Lord of Hosts the Almighty reigns (2x)

Tag - For our God, the Almighty reigns (2x)

<https://youtu.be/3ns15nFSfgU>

***FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.***

***PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:***