

# Psalm 078 - A History of Israel from Moses to David

Theme: The history of Israel from Moses to David: the failure of the people and the faithfulness of God. The History Psalms include Ps 78,105,106,114,135,136.

*History teaches us that man learns nothing from history. — Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel*  
*Those who cannot remember history are condemned to repeat it. — George Santayana*

## Psalm 78

[Maschil of Asaph.]

### Remembering God in Times of Trouble

- 1 Listen, my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 1 Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 1 Listen, my people, to my instruction. Hear the words of my mouth.
- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
  
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will tell riddles of old,
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,
- 2 I will tell a parable, speaking riddles from long ago—
- 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.
- 3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.
- 3 things that we have heard and known and that our ancestors related to us.
- 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
  
- 4 We will not conceal them from their children, But we will tell the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His power and His wondrous works that He has done.
- 4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.
- 4 We will not withhold them from their descendants; we'll declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD— his might and awesome deeds that he has performed.
- 4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they were to teach them to their children,

5 For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children,

5 He established a decree in Jacob, and established the Law in Israel, that he commanded our ancestors to reveal to their children

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:

6 So that the generation to come would know, the children yet to be born, *That* they would arise and tell *them* to their children,

6 That the generation to come might know, *even* the children yet to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children,

6 in order that the next generation— children yet to be born— will know them and in turn teach them to their children.

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 So that they would put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But comply with His commandments,

7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,

7 Then they will put their trust in God and they will not forget his awesome deeds. Instead, they will keep his commandments.

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

8 They will not be like the rebellious generation of their ancestors, a rebellious generation, whose heart was not steadfast, and whose spirits were unfaithful to God.

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

### **Apostasies**

- The Northern Kingdom that forsook the Lord and established new kingdom and a false religion (v9-11)

- The Exodus generation that died in the wilderness (v12-39)
- The forgotten lessons of Egypt - v40-53; Plagues (Ex 7-12; Num 14:32-35); Red Sea opened (Ex 12-15)
- The 3rd generation in Canaan that turned to idols (v54-64)

9 The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows, Yet they turned back on the day of battle.

9 The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows, Yet they turned back in the day of battle.

9 The descendants of Ephraim were sharp shooters with the bow, but they retreated in the day of battle.

9 The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

10 They did not keep the covenant of God And refused to walk in His Law;

10 They did not keep the covenant of God And refused to walk in His law;

10 They did not keep God's covenant, and refused to live by his Law.

10 They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

11 They forgot His deeds And His miracles that He had shown them.

11 They forgot His deeds And His miracles that He had shown them.

11 They have forgotten what he has done, his awesome deeds that they witnessed.

11 And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

## Ephraim

- Adopted and elevated to "firstborn" by Jacob (Gen 48:8-20; Deut 33:13-17)
- Joshua, Moses' successor (Num 13:8)
- Jeroboam, founder of Northern Kingdom (1 Kings 11:26; 12:16ff)
- Tabernacle at Shiloh (in Ephraim)
  - Later at Nob (Benjamin) (1 Sam 21:22; 2 Sam 6:1-2)
  - Gibeon (Benjamin) (1 Kings 3:4)
- Asaph will mention Egyptian experience again in v40-53
  - Example: quail - sometimes God's greatest judgment is to give us what we want!

12 He performed wonders before their fathers In the land of Egypt, *in* the field of Zoan.

12 He wrought wonders before their fathers In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

12 He performed marvelous things in the presence of their ancestors in the land of Egypt—in the fields of Zoan.

12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap.

13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap.

13 He divided the sea so that they were able to cross; he caused the water to stand in a single location.

13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

14 Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire.

14 Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire.

14 He led them with a cloud during the day, and during the night with light from the fire.

14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

15 He split the rocks in the wilderness And gave *them* plenty to drink like the ocean depths.

15 He split the rocks in the wilderness And gave *them* abundant drink like the ocean depths.

15 He caused the rocks to split in the wilderness, and gave them water as from an abundant sea.

15 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths.

16 He brought forth streams from the rock And made waters run down like rivers.

16 He brought forth streams also from the rock And caused waters to run down like rivers.

16 He brought streams from rock, causing water to flow like a river.

16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

**17** Yet they still continued to sin against Him, To rebel against the Most High in the desert.

**17** Yet they still continued to sin against Him, To rebel against the Most High in the desert.

17 But time and again, they sinned against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.

17 And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.

18 And in their heart they put God to the test By asking for food that suited their taste.

18 And in their heart they put God to the test By asking food according to their desire.

18 To test God was in their minds, when they demanded food to satisfy their cravings.  
18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

19 Then they spoke against God; They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?  
19 Then they spoke against God; They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?  
19 They spoke against God by asking, "Is God able to prepare a feast in the desert?  
19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

20 "Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing;  
Can He also provide bread? Will He prepare meat for His people?"

20 "Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing;  
Can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people?"

20 It's true that Moses struck the rock so that water flowed forth and torrents of water  
gushed out, but is he also able to give bread or to supply meat for his people?"

20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed;  
can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

**21** Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath; And a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
And anger also mounted against Israel,

**21** Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath; And a fire was kindled against Jacob  
And anger also mounted against Israel,

21 Therefore, when the LORD heard this, he was angry, and fire broke out against Jacob.  
Moreover, his anger flared against Israel,

21 Therefore the LORD heard this, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and  
anger also came up against Israel;

22 Because they did not believe in God And did not trust in His salvation.

22 Because they did not believe in God And did not trust in His salvation.

22 because they didn't believe in God and didn't trust in his deliverance.

22 Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

- This represents the type of unbelief that is seen among believers today. It is practical  
atheism on the part of God's people.

23 Yet He commanded the clouds above And opened the doors of heaven;

23 Yet He commanded the clouds above And opened the doors of heaven;

23 Yet he commanded the skies above and the doors of the heavens to open,

23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

24 He rained down manna upon them to eat, And gave them food from heaven.  
24 He rained down manna upon them to eat And gave them food from heaven.  
24 so that manna rained down on them for food and he sent them the grain of heaven.  
24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

25 Man ate the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.  
25 Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.  
25 Mortal men ate the food of angels; he sent provision to them in abundance.  
25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

26 He made the east wind blow in the sky And by His power He directed the south wind.  
26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens And by His power He directed the south wind.  
26 He stirred up the east wind in the heavens and drove the south wind by his might.  
26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind.

27 When He rained meat upon them like the dust, Even winged fowl like the sand of the seas,  
27 When He rained meat upon them like the dust, Even winged fowl like the sand of the seas,  
27 He caused meat to rain on them like dust and winged birds as the sand of the sea.  
27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:

28 He let *them* fall in the midst of their camp, All around their dwellings.  
28 Then He let *them* fall in the midst of their camp, Round about their dwellings.  
28 He caused these to fall in the middle of the camp and all around their tents.  
28 And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations.

29 So they ate and were well filled, And He satisfied their longing.  
29 So they ate and were well filled, And their desire He gave to them.  
29 So they ate and were very satisfied, because he granted their desire.  
29 So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

30 Yet before they had abandoned their longing, While their food was in their mouths,  
30 Before they had satisfied their desire, While their food was in their mouths,  
30 However, before they had fulfilled their desire, while their food was still in their mouths,

30 They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths,

31 The anger of God rose against them And killed some of their strongest ones, And subdued the choice men of Israel.

31 The anger of God rose against them And killed some of their stoutest ones, And subdued the choice men of Israel.

31 the anger of God flared against them, and he killed the strongest men and humbled Israel's young men.

31 The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.

32 In spite of all this they still sinned And did not believe in His wonderful works.

32 In spite of all this they still sinned And did not believe in His wonderful works.

32 In spite of all of this, they kept on sinning and didn't believe in his marvelous deeds.

32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

33 So He brought their days to an end in futility, And their years *to an end* in sudden terror.

33 So He brought their days to an end in futility And their years in sudden terror.

33 So he made their days end in futility, and their years with sudden terror.

33 Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble.

**34** When He killed them, then they sought Him, And they returned and searched diligently for God;

**34** When He killed them, then they sought Him, And returned and searched diligently for God;

34 When he struck them, they sought him; they repented, and eagerly sought God.

34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.

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

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

35 Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God was their deliverer.

35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

36 But they flattered Him with their mouth And lied to Him with their tongue.

36 But they deceived Him with their mouth And lied to Him with their tongue.

36 But they deceived him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.

36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.

37 For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, Nor were they faithful with His covenant.

37 For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

37 For their hearts weren't committed to him, and they weren't faithful to his covenant.

37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.

38 But He, being compassionate, forgave *their* wrongdoing and did not destroy *them*; And often He restrained His anger And did not stir up all His wrath.

38 But He, being compassionate, forgave *their* iniquity and did not destroy *them*; And often He restrained His anger And did not arouse all His wrath.

38 But he, being merciful, forgave their iniquity and didn't destroy them; He restrained his anger and didn't vent all his wrath.

38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

39 So He remembered that they were *only* flesh, A wind that passes and does not return.

39 Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, A wind that passes and does not return.

39 For he remembered that they were only flesh, a passing wind that doesn't return.

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

**40** How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness And grieved Him in the desert!

**40** How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness And grieved Him in the desert!

40 How they rebelled against him in the desert, grieving him in the wilderness!

40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

41 Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.

41 Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.

41 They tested God again and again, provoking the Holy One of Israel.

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

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

42 They did not remember His power, The day when He redeemed them from the adversary,

42 They did not remember his power— the day he delivered them from their adversary,

42 They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.



43 When He performed His signs in Egypt And His marvels in the field of Zoan,  
43 When He performed His signs in Egypt And His marvels in the field of Zoan,  
43 when he set his signs in Egypt and his wonders in the plain of Zoan.  
43 How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

44 And turned their rivers to blood, And their streams, *so that* they could not drink.  
44 And turned their rivers to blood, And their streams, they could not drink.  
44 He turned their rivers into blood and made their streams undrinkable.  
44 And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

45 He sent swarms of flies among them that devoured them, And frogs that destroyed them.  
45 He sent among them swarms of flies which devoured them, And frogs which destroyed them.  
45 He sent swarms of insects to bite them and frogs to destroy them.  
45 He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

46 He also gave their crops to the grasshopper And the product of their labor to the locust.  
46 He gave also their crops to the grasshopper And the product of their labor to the locust.  
46 He gave their crops to caterpillars and what they worked for to locusts.  
46 He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust.

47 He destroyed their vines with hailstones And their sycamore trees with frost.  
47 He destroyed their vines with hailstones And their sycamore trees with frost.  
47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore trees with frost.  
47 He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycomore trees with frost.

48 He also turned their cattle over to the hailstones, And their herds to bolts of lightning.  
48 He gave over their cattle also to the hailstones And their herds to bolts of lightning.  
48 He delivered their beasts to hail and their livestock to lightning bolts.  
48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.

49 He sent His burning anger upon them, Fury and indignation and trouble, A band of destroying angels.

49 He sent upon them His burning anger, Fury and indignation and trouble, A band of destroying angels.

49 He inflicted his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, sending destroying angels among them.

49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.

50 He leveled a path for His anger; He did not spare their souls from death, But turned their lives over to the plague,

50 He leveled a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave over their life to the plague,

50 He blazed a path for his anger; he did not stop short from killing them, but handed them over to pestilence.

50 He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

51 And struck all the firstborn in Egypt, The first and best of their vigor in the tents of Ham.

51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt, The first *issue* of their virility in the tents of Ham.

51 He struck every firstborn in Egypt, the first fruits of their manhood in the tents of Ham.

51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

52 But He led His own people out like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

52 But He led forth His own people like sheep And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

52 Yet he led out his people like sheep, guiding them like a flock in the desert.

52 But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

53 He led them safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea engulfed their enemies.

53 He led them safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea engulfed their enemies.

53 He led them to safety so they would not fear. As for their enemies, the sea covered them.

53 And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

**54** So He brought them to His holy land, To this hill country which His right hand had gained.

**54** So He brought them to His holy land, To this hill country which His right hand had gained.

54 He brought the people to the border of his holy mountain, which he acquired by his might.

54 And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased.

55 He also drove out the nations from them And apportioned them as an inheritance by measurement, And had the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.

55 He also drove out the nations before them And apportioned them for an inheritance by measurement, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.

55 He drove out nations before them and allotted their tribal inheritance, settling the tribes of Israel in their tents.

55 He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them 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 did not keep His testimonies,

56 Yet they tempted and rebelled against the Most High God And did not keep His testimonies,

56 But they tested the Most High God by rebelling against him, and they did not obey his statutes.

56 Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

57 But turned back and acted treacherously like their fathers; They turned aside like a treacherous bow.

57 But turned back and acted treacherously like their fathers; They turned aside like a treacherous bow.

57 They fell away and were as disloyal as their ancestors. They became unreliable, like a defective bow;

57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

58 For they provoked Him with their high places And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.

58 For they provoked Him with their high places And aroused His jealousy with their graven images.

58 they angered him with their high places and with their carved images they made him jealous.

58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

59 When God heard *them*, He was filled with wrath And He utterly rejected Israel;

59 When God heard, He was filled with wrath And greatly abhorred Israel;

59 God heard and became furious, and he completely rejected Israel.

59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

60 So that He abandoned the dwelling place at **Shiloh**, The tent which He had pitched among people,

60 So that He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, The tent which He had pitched among men,

60 He abandoned the tent at Shiloh, the tent that he established among mankind.

60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

- "...Shiloh" - 1 Sam 4 does not record the destruction of the tabernacle at Shiloh, but many scholars assume the Philistines razed it after the captured the Ark (Cf. 1 Sam 4:10-11)

61 And He gave up His strength to captivity And His glory into the hand of the enemy.

61 And gave up His strength to captivity And His glory into the hand of the adversary.

61 Then he sent his might into captivity and his glory into the control of the adversary.

61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

62 He also turned His people over to the sword, And was filled with wrath at His inheritance.

62 He also delivered His people to the sword, And was filled with wrath at His inheritance.

62 He delivered his people over to the sword and was angry with his possession.

62 He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

- The Book of Judges records how seven different nations invaded Israel, and God raised up "judges" when the people repented and turned to Him for help

63 Fire devoured His young men, And His virgins had no wedding songs.

63 Fire devoured His young men, And His virgins had no wedding songs.

63 The young men were consumed by fire, and the virgins had no marriage celebrations.

63 The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.

64 His priests fell by the sword, And His widows could not weep.  
64 His priests fell by the sword, And His widows could not weep.  
64 The priests fell by the sword, yet their widows couldn't weep.  
64 Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.

65 Then the Lord awoke as *if from* sleep, Like a warrior overcome by wine.  
65 Then the Lord awoke as *if from* sleep, Like a warrior overcome by wine.  
65 The LORD awoke as though from sleep, like a mighty warrior stimulated by wine.  
65 Then the Lord awakened as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

66 He drove His adversaries backward; He put on them an everlasting disgrace.  
66 He drove His adversaries backward; He put on them an everlasting reproach.  
66 He beat back his adversaries, permanently disgracing them.  
66 And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

67 He also rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,  
67 He also rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,  
67 He rejected the clan of Joseph; and the tribe of Ephraim he did not choose.  
67 Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim:

68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which He loved.  
68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.  
68 But he chose the tribe of Judah, the mountain of Zion, which he loves.  
68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever.  
69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has founded forever.  
69 He built his sanctuary, high as the heavens, like the earth that he established forever.  
69 And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

70 He also chose His servant David And took him from the sheepfolds;  
70 He also chose David His servant And took him from the sheepfolds;  
70 Then he chose his servant David, whom he took from the sheepfold.

70 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

71 From the care of the ewes with nursing lambs He brought him To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.

71 From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.

71 He brought him from birthing sheep to care for Jacob, his people, Israel, his possession.

71 From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

72 David shepherded them with a devoted heart, and led them with skillful hands.

72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.