

PSALM 78

Maschil of Asaph.

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

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.

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

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

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

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 to stand as an heap.

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

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

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

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

18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

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 *this*, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;

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

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

24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind.

27 He rained flesh also upon

them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:

28 And he let *it* fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations.

29 So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

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

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

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

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

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 high God their redeemer.

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

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

38 But he, *being* full of compas-

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

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

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

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

43 How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

44 And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

45 He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

46 He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust.

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

48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.

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

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

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

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

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

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 provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

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

58 For they provoked him to

anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

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

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

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

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

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

64 Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.

65 Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, *and* like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

66 And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

67 Moreover he refused 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 like high *palaces*, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

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

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

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

PSALM 79

A Psalm of Asaph.

OGOD, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given *to be* meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.

3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and *there was* none to bury *them*.

4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

5 How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

6. Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee,

and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

8 O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* their God? let him be known among the heathen

in our sight *by* the revenging of the blood of thy servants *which is* shed.

11 Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;

12 And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In Psalm 78 Asaph is calling his people to give ear unto the Law and incline their ears to the words of his mouth. He speaks of how Israel has turned back and tempted God; yet God was faithful to forgive the great nation when they repented of their sins and turned to Him. Israel's history is seen in verses 1-55; and David receives grace from God in verses 65-72. Verse 41 says, "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." This verse has proven to be true through the entire history of Israel, even to the present day. In our every day living, when we do not give ourselves to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we limit the joy and peace that come into our lives. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer, but the believer fails to grow and mature into Christian adulthood when he continually shuts the Holy Spirit out by not submitting his life to Him.

Psalm 79 is a prayer for judgment upon Jerusalem's enemies. Though this lament points to some great national calamity, the prophetic meaning will find fulfillment in Jerusalem under the false messiah when the cruelties of Antiochus Epiphanes will be repeated (Revelation 11:3-12).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may

answer him that reproacheth me" (Proverbs 27:11).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 22: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1721

THE FIRST SMALLPOX VACCINATION WAS GIVEN.

Here is something that we take for granted. It is simply accepted that we have this wonderful vaccine. Thank God today for the miracle of the smallpox vaccine.

1892

THE BIRTHDAY OF PEARL S. BUCK

Oftentimes we read without taking advantage to thank God for writers and their writings. Thank God today for those gifted with the pen and who have shared their hearts and minds with us. In these days of television, oftentimes the simple privilege of reading is overlooked. How long has it been since you read a good book? Why not find some good book and read it through. Through books I have preached with Spurgeon in London; through books I have sat beside Billy Sunday on platforms across America. In books I have walked with Martin Luther, Savanarola, and John Welsh. Basically, education is simply acquainting

ourselves with the writings of others. Let us resolve to read more.

**1917
THE FIRST UNITED STATES TROOPS LANDED
IN FRANCE.**

Pause to pray today for the servicemen. God bless them. God care for them. God protect them. They are thousands of miles away from home, protecting the freedoms we hold so dear. Pray for the servicemen today.

Do you have any idea what it is to sit thousands of miles away from home and think of Mother, sweetheart and friends? There is no loneliness comparable. They need your prayers.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1938
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON DIED OF**

INJURIES received in an automobile accident near his summer home in Wiscosset, Maine.

**1934
W.E.B. DU BOIS RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION AT THE NAACP** in a disagreement over policy and racial strategy.

**1959
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VA., BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ABANDONED SCHOOL SYSTEM** to prevent integration.

**1962
SIT-IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND PASSIVE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT BEGAN IN CARIO, ILLINOIS.** Demonstrations aganist segregation in swimming pool, skating rink and other facilities continued for several months.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "THERE ARE TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH"

(Assignment 22)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

You are not to judge.

() Matthew 7:1

Judge not, that ye be not judged..

Those that try to judge are inexcusable.

() Romans 2:1

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Judgment of God according to truth.

() Romans 2:2

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Those that judge do the same thing.

() Romans 2:3

And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Only accountable for yourself.

() Romans 14:12

So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.