

PSALM 78:1-20

The account of God's dealings with Israel are celebrated in this psalm. This history was to be passed down to each succeeding generation, that the praises of Yahweh might always be on their lips. Let us be faithful in passing the lessons herein learned on to our own children, that we might always give praise to God for his kind providence and faithfulness to his promises.

A Maskil of Asaph.

- 1 Listen, O my people, to my instruction; 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 conceal them from their children,
but tell to the generation to come the praises of YAHWEH,
and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

- 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,
- 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,
- 7 that they should put their confidence 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.

- 9 The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows,
yet they turned back in the day of battle.
- 10 They did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law;
- 11 they forgot His deeds and His miracles that He had shown them.
- 12 He wrought wonders before 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.
- 14 Then He led them with the cloud by day and all the night with a light of fire.
- 15 He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave *them* abundant drink like the ocean depths.
- 16 He brought forth streams also from 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.
- 18 And in their heart they put God to the test by asking food according to their desire.
- 19 Then 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 were overflowing;
can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people?"

PRAYER

Gracious Father, let us take to heart the murmuring and rebellion of Israel when you brought them out of Egypt to the land of promise, for we are too quickly prone to follow in their ways. Keep us from despising your blessings, blessings of which we are so unworthy. We have your word ready at hand to study, your commandments clearly laid out to follow, and the Holy Spirit given in abundance to guide us on our way. We know this psalm has been written for our admonition, that we may not lust after the flesh but walk soberly in the fear of God, keeping his commandments. Intercede for us, Lord Jesus, before your Father's throne of grace, because we are helpless when left to ourselves. Amen.