

Psalms 78

Chapter 78 of 150 · 72 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Tell to the Coming Generation

- 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 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:
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- 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.
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- 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 stedfast in his covenant.

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 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.
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- 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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — מַלְאָךְ (Mal'akh)

Angel, messenger

The Hebrew **mal'akh** (מַלְאָךְ) means angel or messenger—a heavenly being sent by God. Angels serve as God's messengers, worship Him, and minister to believers (Hebrews 1:14).

Believe — אָמֵן (Aman)

To believe, trust, be faithful

The Hebrew **aman** (אָמֵן) means to believe or confirm—the root of 'Amen.' It conveys firm trust and reliability. Abraham 'believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness' (Genesis 15:6).

Blood — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

Faith — אֱמוּנָה (Emunah)

Faithfulness, trust

The Hebrew **emunah** (אֱמוּנָה) encompasses both faith and faithfulness—trusting God and being trustworthy. It implies steadfast reliability, as in 'The just shall live by his faith' (Habakkuk 2:4).

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Holy — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

Iniquity — עָוֹן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (עָוֹן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Law — תּוֹרָה (Torah)

Law, instruction

The Hebrew **Torah** (תּוֹרָה) means law or instruction—God's revealed will for His people. The Law includes moral, civil, and ceremonial commandments, revealing God's character and humanity's need for a Savior.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יהוה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אֶהְבָּה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אֶהְבָּה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Redeem — גָּאַל (Gaal)

To redeem, act as kinsman-redeemer

The Hebrew **gaal** (גָּאַל) means to redeem or act as kinsman-redeemer (go'el)—buying back family property or relatives. It foreshadows Christ redeeming His people through His blood.

Salvation — יְשׁוּעָה (Yeshuah)

Salvation, deliverance

The Hebrew **yeshuah** (יְשׁוּעָה) means salvation or deliverance—rescue from danger or enemies. This is the root of 'Jesus' (Yeshua), meaning 'YHWH saves.'

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalms 78:1

Parallel theme: Psalms 50:7; 51:4; 74:1; Judges 5:3; Isaiah 55:3; Matthew 13:9. **Word:** Isaiah 51:4

Psalms 78:2 **Parallel theme:** Mark 4:34. **Darkness:** Psalms 49:4; Proverbs 1:6

Psalms 78:3 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 44:1; 48:8; Exodus 13:8

Psalms 78:4 **Resurrection:** Psalms 9:14; Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 4:9; Joel 1:3

Psalms 78:5

Parallel theme: Deuteronomy 6:7; Isaiah 38:19; Ephesians 6:4. **Witness:** Psalms 81:5; Exodus 25:21; 40:3. **References Israel:** Deuteronomy 4:45. **Word:** Psalms 19:7; 147:19; Isaiah 8:20

Psalms 78:6 **Resurrection:** Psalms 102:18; 145:4. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 90:16; Joel 1:3

Psalms 78:7 **Word:** Deuteronomy 5:29; 8:11; 1 John 5:3; Revelation 14:12. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 40:4; 91:14; 103:2; Deuteronomy 4:9

Psalms 78:8 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 78:37; Exodus 32:9; 33:3; Deuteronomy 31:27; Ezekiel 20:18. **Spirit:** Acts 7:51. **References God:** 2 Kings 17:14; 2 Chronicles 30:7

Psalms 78:10 **Covenant:** Deuteronomy 31:16; 31:20; Jeremiah 31:32

Psalms 78:11 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 106:13

Psalms 78:12 **References Egypt:** Numbers 13:22; Isaiah 19:13. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 19:11; Ezekiel 30:14

Psalms 78:13 **Creation:** Exodus 14:21. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 66:6; Exodus 15:8; Joshua 3:16

Psalms 78:14 **Light:** Psalms 105:39; Nehemiah 9:12; 9:19. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 14:24

Psalms 78:15 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 105:41; 114:8; Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11; Isaiah 41:18; 43:20; 48:21; 1 Corinthians 10:4; Revelation 22:1; 22:17

Psalms 78:16 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 20:8; Deuteronomy 8:15

Psalms 78:17 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 63:10

Psalms 78:18 **References God:** Deuteronomy 6:16. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 11:4; 1 Corinthians 10:9

Psalms 78:19 **References God:** Exodus 16:3; Numbers 20:3; 21:5. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 23:5; Numbers 11:4; 11:13

Psalms 78:20 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 20:11

Psalms 78:22 **References God:** Hebrews 3:12. **Faith:** Psalms 106:24; Deuteronomy 1:32; Isaiah 7:9; Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 5:10. **Salvation:** Jude 1:5

Psalms 78:23 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 7:11; Malachi 3:10

Psalms 78:24 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 105:40; Exodus 16:4; 16:14

Psalms 78:25 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 103:20; Exodus 16:8; Matthew 14:20; 15:37

Psalms 78:26 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 11:31

Psalms 78:32 **Faith:** Psalms 78:22; John 12:37

Psalms 78:33 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:29; 14:35

Psalms 78:34 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 21:7; Hosea 5:15

Psalms 78:35

References God: Deuteronomy 32:4; 32:15. **Redemption:** Exodus 15:13; Isaiah 41:14; Titus 2:14

Psalms 78:36 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31

Psalms 78:37 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 51:10; 78:8; 119:80; Hosea 7:14; 10:2; Acts 8:21

Psalms 78:38 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 21:20; Isaiah 48:9; Ezekiel 20:17

Psalms 78:39 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 6:3; Job 7:7; 7:16; 10:9; James 4:14

Psalms 78:40 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30

Psalms 78:41 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:4; 14:22; Acts 7:39. **References God:** Deuteronomy 6:16. **Holy:** 2 Kings 19:22

Psalms 78:42 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 78:11; Exodus 13:9; 14:12; Judges 8:34; Isaiah 11:11; Jeremiah 32:21

Psalms 78:44 **Blood:** Psalms 105:29

Psalms 78:49 **Evil:** Psalms 11:6; 2 Samuel 24:16. **Judgment:** Exodus 15:7. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 12:13

Psalms 78:50 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 7:4; Romans 8:32

Psalms 78:51 **References Egypt:** Psalms 105:23; 135:8; 136:10; Exodus 12:12; 13:15.

Parallel theme: Psalms 105:36; 106:22; Genesis 49:3

Psalms 78:52 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 77:20; 95:7; 105:37; Nehemiah 9:12; Isaiah 40:11.

Creation: Psalms 100:3

Psalms 78:53 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 136:15; Exodus 14:15; 15:10; Hebrews 11:29

Psalms 78:54 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 44:3. **Temple:** Exodus 15:17

Psalms 78:55 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 44:2; Joshua 13:7

Psalms 78:57 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 78:8; Hosea 7:16

Psalms 78:58

Parallel theme: Leviticus 26:30; Deuteronomy 12:2; 32:21; 1 Kings 11:7; 12:31; 1 Corinthians 10:22

Psalms 78:59 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 106:40

Psalms 78:60 **Temple:** Joshua 18:1. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 1:3

Psalms 78:61 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 132:8

Psalms 78:63 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 7:34; 16:9

Psalms 78:64 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 4:11; 4:17; Job 27:15; Ezekiel 24:23

Psalms 78:65 **References Lord:** Psalms 44:23; Isaiah 51:9

Psalms 78:66 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 5:6; Job 40:12; Jeremiah 23:40

Psalms 78:68 **Love:** Psalms 87:2

Psalms 78:70 **References David:** Acts 13:22

Psalms 78:71 **References Israel:** 2 Samuel 5:2; 1 Chronicles 11:2. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 28:9; Genesis 33:13; Isaiah 40:11; 1 Peter 5:2

Psalms 78:72 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 9:4; 2 Timothy 2:15

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