

Psalms 78:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them—the Hebrew *šākaḥ* (forgot) implies not mere memory failure but willful neglect, a deliberate turning away from covenant obligations. Israel's forgetfulness of God's *niplā'ôt* (wonders, miraculous acts) represents the recurring sin pattern that Psalm 78 chronicles. This didactic psalm, a *maškil* (instruction psalm) by Asaph, rehearses Exodus history not as nostalgia but as warning.

The psalm's pedagogy serves the same purpose as Christ's parables—those who have ears to hear will understand and repent (Matthew 13:13-15). Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 10:11: 'These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us.'

Historical Context

Asaph, David's chief musician, composed this psalm likely during the united monarchy (1000-930 BC) to teach covenant faithfulness. The historical recital spans from Exodus (1446 BC) through the wilderness wanderings, serving as liturgical instruction for festival worship.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'wonders' of God's past faithfulness have you forgotten when facing present trials?
2. How does rehearsing redemption history guard against repeating Israel's pattern of unbelief?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁכַּח וְ	עֲלִילוֹתָיִי	! נִפְלְאוֹתָיִי	אֲשֶׁר	הִרְאֵם:
And forgot	his works	and his wonders	H834	that he had shewed
H7911	H5949	H6381		H7200

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:13 (Parallel theme): They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: