

# Psalm 78:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation**—the parallelism defines faith: believing ('āman, to be firm, established) must translate into trusting (bāṭah, confident reliance). Israel gave intellectual assent without volitional commitment. The word yešū'â (salvation) shares the root with 'Jesus' (Yeshua)—they refused to trust the very deliverance God provided.

Hebrews 3:19 concludes: 'So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.' Faith isn't mental agreement but active trust that obeys. James 2:19 exposes demonic belief: 'You believe God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!' True faith works (James 2:17), walks (2 Corinthians 5:7), and overcomes (1 John 5:4).

## Historical Context

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This verse diagnoses the root pathology behind all wilderness rebellions: functional atheism disguised as monotheism. They worshiped YHWH while trusting their own assessment more than His promises—the essence of unbelief.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. Where do you 'believe' in God theoretically while refusing to 'trust' Him practically?
2. How does unbelief masquerade as prudence, wisdom, or reasonable caution in your decision-making?

## Interlinear Text

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בַּ אֲמִינוּ לֹא בְּאֱלֹהִים וְלֹא בְּעִמָּנָה:

H3588    H3808    Because they believed    H539    not in God    H430    and trusted    H3808    H982

בְּיִשְׁוּעָתְךָ  
not in his salvation  
H3444

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 3:12** (References God): Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**Hebrews 11:6** (Faith): But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**Deuteronomy 1:32** (Faith): Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God,

**Isaiah 7:9** (Faith): And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.

**Psalms 106:24** (Faith): Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

**1 John 5:10** (Faith): He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

**Jude 1:5** (Salvation): I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

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