### Psalms

## Chapter 78

A contemplation of Asaph.  
  
  
  
  
1My people,  
  
Pay attention to my laws…  
 Incline your ears to the words from my mouth!  
 2For, I’ll now speak illustrations,  
 And I’ll talk in riddles from the start.  
  
3We’ve heard about it so many times,  
 For our fathers told us the stories…  
 4From their children, they didn’t hide it…  
 For the Lord and His rule, the next generation also praise,  
 And the wondrous things that He’s done.  
  
5He provided a witness in Jacob,  
 And to IsraEl, He sent us a Law,  
 Which He ordered the fathers to teach to their sons,  
 6So each generation would know,  
 And the sons being born would pass it along…  
 7That they all must trust in Jehovah,  
 And never forget the things He’s done,  
 Or fail to inquire about His Commandments,  
 8So they won’t become crooks like their fathers,  
 Who were a crooked and a bitter generation  
 That never straightened their hearts  
 And had a spirit that God couldn’t trust.  
  
9Ephraim’s sons stretched tight their bows,  
 Which they shot and which saved them in the days of their wars.  
 10But they failed to keep their Agreement with God,  
 And His Laws, they chose not to follow.  
  
11They forgot all the good things He’d done,  
 And all the wonders that He’d shown them…  
 12The wonders that He showed to their fathers in Egypt  
 (In plains of Tanis, where it happened),  
 13When He ripped open the sea,  
 And through its midst, led them through…  
 As He held back the waters as though in a bag.  
  
14Then He led them with a cloud during the day,  
 And by the light of a fire throughout the night.  
 15He split open the rock in the desert,  
 And from a pit, gave them something to drink…  
 16He brought water out of a stone,  
 And a river, thereafter flowed from it!  
  
17But then they turned and they sinned against Him…  
 They embittered the Most High in that dry place…  
 18They put God to the test in their hearts  
 By demanding the type of food that their souls craved.  
 19And of God, they spoke ill when they asked:  
  
 ‘Can’t God set a table in the desert?’  
  
20Since He struck the rock and from it flowed water  
 (And a stream poured across the whole land);  
 How could they ask if He’d provide bread,  
 Or set a table for His people?  
  
21So when Jehovah heard all of this,  
 It raised His anger against them.  
 Then He lit a ‘fire’ within Jacob,  
 And He brought His rage upon IsraEl.  
 22For they’d failed to put faith in their God  
 And in His power to save them.  
  
23Then He ordered the clouds up above,  
 And the gates of the heavens were opened.  
 24Manna rained down for them to consume…  
 The bread of heaven, He gave them.  
 25So the bread of angels was eaten by men,  
 And He sent enough to make them all full.  
  
26Thereafter, He sent the winds from the skies…  
 By His power, He brought the winds from the south,  
 27And meat rained upon them like dust…  
 Feathered creatures, as the sands of the seas.  
 28They fell in the midst of their camp,  
 As well as all around their tents.  
 29So they ate and became very full,  
 Since He’d brought them all they desired.  
  
30No, they weren’t deprived of the things that they’d asked;  
 But, while the food was still in their mouths,  
 31The rage of Jehovah came upon them,  
 And there amidst plenty, He killed them…  
 IsraEl, His chosen, He then pushed away.  
 32For by saying these things, they had sinned,  
 Since they’d failed to believe in His wonders.  
 33So in folly, they ended their days,  
 And their years concluded too soon.  
  
34Then, after those deaths, they turned back to Him…  
 They again arose early to search for their God.  
 35They remembered that God was their helper…  
 The Most High God had redeemed them.  
  
36But, although with their mouths, they spoke of their love;  
 With their tongues, they also told lies.  
 37With Him, their hearts had never been straight,  
 Nor did they trust His Agreement with them.  
  
38Yet, He felt pity and covered their sins…  
 He didn’t destroy them or show them His rage…  
 Or allow His anger to blaze.  
 39He remembered that they were just flesh…  
 Like winds that blow by to never return.  
  
40Then they made Him bitter in the desert,  
 And provoked Him to rage in a waterless land.  
 41They turned around and put God to the test…  
 The Holy One of IsraEl, they angered.  
  
42They forgot the hand that He used on that day  
 To buy them from their oppressors…  
 43All the signs that He’d sent upon Egypt,  
 And the miracles that came upon Tanis’ plains…  
 44How He turned their rain and rivers to blood,  
 So they were unable to drink it…  
 45And of how He sent fleas there to bite them,  
 Followed by frogs, bringing ruin…  
 46Or of how He appointed blight on their fruit,  
 And sent them the misery of locusts.  
  
47Then He killed their grapevines with hail,  
 And He sent killing frost to their sycamore trees.  
 48He also brought hail on their cattle,  
 And burned their possessions in fire.  
  
49Then He sent them His rage to show His displeasure  
 By commissioning wicked angels against them…  
 50He opened the road of His anger,  
 And He didn’t spare them from death…  
 Even their cattle were chosen to die.  
  
51He struck all the firstborn in Egypt…  
 He sent misery upon the tents of Ham.  
 52But like sheep, He set His people aside,  
 Then like a flock, He led them into the desert.  
  
53They weren’t afraid, so He led them;  
 Then He covered their enemies under the sea.  
 54To His Holy Mountain, He brought them…  
 All of those whom He’d purchased  
 With His mighty right hand.  
  
55Then before them, He drove away nations,  
 And created a place for them to inherit.  
 He allowed them to set up their camps…  
 The tents of IsraEl’s tribes.  
  
56But they tested and embittered God the Most High;  
 For His [Laws], they chose not to keep.  
 57They turned and annulled their [Agreement with Him],  
 And became crooked bows like their fathers.  
 58In their hills, they provoked Him to rage,  
 And made Him jealous with things carved by hand.  
  
59Then, because God heard what they’d done,  
 He turned from IsraEl in contempt.  
 60The Tent in ShiLoh, He then pushed away…  
 The Tent where He’d camped among men.  
  
61Then, into captivity, He handed their strength…  
 Their beauty, to their enemy’s hands.  
 62He gave His people to broadswords…  
 His inheritance, He then overlooked.  
  
63Their young men were burned up in fires,  
 And for their virgins, there weren’t any wedding songs.  
 64Their Priests all fell by the sword,  
 And no one wept for their widows!  
  
65Then, Jehovah awakened from slumber  
 Like a Mighty One who was dizzy from wine.  
 66He struck their enemies and made them retreat,  
 Appointing them to scorn throughout the ages.  
  
67But the tent of JoSeph, He rejected,  
 And Ephraim’s tribe, He no longer chose.  
 68It was Judah’s tribe that He wanted,  
 And Mount Zion would be the place that He loved…  
 69It’s where His Most Holy Place would be built.  
 So He laid its foundation out on the ground,  
 [As something that would last] throughout the ages.  
  
70Then He chose David, His servant,  
 And took him away from his flocks.  
 71To tend Jacob, He left [his sheep] giving birth…  
 God’s inheritance… IsraEl, His servant.  
 72David cared for them with an innocent heart,  
 And with skilled hands, he then led them.