Ps 77

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | AI | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 (Of Contemplation. By Asaph) |  |  |  |  | Of understanding. Pertaining to Asaph. |  |  |
| Attend, my people, to my law;  incline your ears to the words of my mouth. |  |  |  |  | Pay attention, O my people, to my law;  incline your ears to the words of my mouth. |  |  |
| 2 I will speak my mind in parables,[[1]](#footnote-1)  read riddles cryptic since creation. |  |  |  |  | I will open my mouth in a parable[s];  I will utter problems form of old, |  |  |
| 3 All that we have heard and known  and our fathers have told us,  has not been hidden from their children |  |  |  |  | things that we heard, and we knew them,  and our fathers told us. |  |  |
| 4 from one generation to another;  and we will tell our children  the praises of the Lord  and His mighty acts  and the wonders He has done. |  |  |  |  | They were not hidden from their children to a next generation,  as they kept telling of the praises of the Lord  and of his dominance  and of the wonders that he did. |  |  |
| 5 He raised up a testimony[[2]](#footnote-2) in Jacob  and appointed a law in Israel,  which He commanded our fathers  to make known to their children, |  |  |  |  | And he established a witness in Iakob  and set a law in Israel,  which things he commanded our fathers  to make them known to their sons, |  |  |
| 6 that the next generation might know it,  that the children to be born  might rise and tell their children: |  |  |  |  | that a next generation might know them,  sons that will be born,  and they shall rise up and tell them to their sons |  |  |
| 7 That they should put their trust in God  and not forget the works of God  but seek His commandments; |  |  |  |  | so that they should set hteir hope in God  and not forget the works of God  and [they will] seek out his commandments, |  |  |
| 8 that they should not be like their fathers,  a crooked and provoking race,  a race that did not set its heart aright  and whose spirit was not loyal to God. |  |  |  |  | that they should not be like htier fathers,  a generation, crooked and embittering,  a generation which did not set its heart aright,  and its spirit was not faithful to God. |  |  |
| 9 The children of Ephraim, though skilled bowmen,  were routed on the day of battle.[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |  |  |  | Ephraim’s sons, though bending and hsooting their bows,  were turned back on a day of war. |  |  |
| 10 They did not keep God’s covenant,  and refused to walk in His law. |  |  |  |  | They did not keep the covenant of God,  and in his law they did not walk. |  |  |
| 11 They forgot His blessings  and the wonders He had shown them, |  |  |  |  | And they forgot his benefactions  and his marvels that he showed them |  |  |
| 12 the wonders He had done in the sight of their fathers  in the land of Egypt, in the field of Tanis. |  |  |  |  | in the sight of their fathers, which marvels he worked  in the land of Egypt, in Tanis’ plain. |  |  |
| 13 He divided the sea and led them through;  He held the waters together as though in a wineskin. |  |  |  |  | He broke asunder a sea and brought them through;  he made waters stand like a wineskin. |  |  |
| 14 He led them with a cloud by day,  and all the night long by the light of a fire. |  |  |  |  | And he led them with a cloud by day,  and all night long with an illumination of fire. |  |  |
| 15 He split a rock in the wilderness  and gave them drink as from great depths. |  |  |  |  | He broke asunder a rock in a wilderness  and gave them drink as from a voluminous deep. |  |  |
| 16 He brought water out of the rock  and made waters flow like rivers. |  |  |  |  | And he brought out water from a rock  and brought down waters like rivers. |  |  |
| 17 Yet still they went on sinning against Him;  they provoked the Most High in the desert. |  |  |  |  | And they added still to sin against him;  they embittered the Most High in a waterless land. |  |  |
| 18 And they tempted God in their hearts  by demanding food for their cravings. |  |  |  |  | And they tested God in their hearts  by demanding food for their souls |  |  |
| 19 And they spoke against God and said:  ‘Can God provide a table in the wilderness? |  |  |  |  | And they spoke against God and said,  “Surely, God will not be able to spread a table in a wilderness? |  |  |
| 20 True, He struck a rock so that water gushed out  and torrents overflowed;  but can He also give us bread,  and provide a table for His people?’ |  |  |  |  | Even though he struck a rock and water gushed out  and wadis deluged,  surely, he cannot also give bread  or spread a table for his people?” |  |  |
| 21 So the Lord heard and deferred,[[4]](#footnote-4)  and a fire was kindled in Jacob,  and wrath mounted against Israel, |  |  |  |  | Therefore, the Lord heard and was put out,  and a fire was kindled in Iakob,  and anger mounted against Israel, |  |  |
| 22 because they did not believe in God  or trust in His salvation. |  |  |  |  | because they had no faith in God  nor did they hope in his saving power. |  |  |
| 23 Then He commanded the clouds above,  and opened the doors of heaven, |  |  |  |  | And he commanded clouds above  and opened heaven’s doors, |  |  |
| 24 and rained upon them manna to eat,  and gave them the bread of heaven. |  |  |  |  | and he rained down manna for them to eat,  and heaven’s bread he gave them. |  |  |
| 25 Man ate the bread of Angels;  He sent them food in abundance. |  |  |  |  | Bread of angels man ate;  provisions he sent them in abundance. |  |  |
| 26 He banished the south wind from heaven,  and by His power He brought in a southwest wind. |  |  |  |  | He removed a south wind from heaven,  and he led on, by his dominance, a southwest wind, |  |  |
| 27 And He rained flesh on them as thick as dust  and winged birds like the sand of the seas. |  |  |  |  | and he rained upon htem flesh like dust  and winged birds like the sand of seas, |  |  |
| 28 And the birds fell in the midst of their camp,  all round their tents. |  |  |  |  | and they fell in the midst of their camp,  all around their coverts. |  |  |
| 29 So they ate and were thoroughly stuffed,  and He brought them their desire. |  |  |  |  | And they ate and were well filled,  and what they craved he brought them; |  |  |
| 30 They had not stayed their desire  and the food was still in their mouths |  |  |  |  | they were not deprived of what they craved.  While their food was still in their mouth, |  |  |
| 31 when the wrath of God rose against them  and slew the strongest of them.  and laid low the picked men of Israel. |  |  |  |  | God’s wrath also rose against them,  and he killed among their sleek ones,  and the select of Israel he shackled. |  |  |
| 32 Yet for all this they still sinned,  and did not believe in His wonders. |  |  |  |  | Amidst all these things they still sinned,  and they did not believe in his marvels. |  |  |
| 33 Their days slipped by in vanity,  and their years in anxiety. |  |  |  |  | And in vanity did their days end,  and their years with haste. |  |  |
| 34 When He slew them, then they sought Him,  and returned and rose to seek God early, |  |  |  |  | When he was killing htem, they would seek him out,  and they would turn to God and be early. |  |  |
| 35 and they remembered that God was their helper  and that the Most High was their redeemer. |  |  |  |  | And they remembered that God was their helper  and God the Most High was their redeemer. |  |  |
| 36 Then they loved Him with their mouth,  and with their tongue they lied to Him. |  |  |  |  | And they deceived him with their mouth,  and with their tongue they lied to him. |  |  |
| 37 Their heart was not right with Him,  and they were not faithful to His covenant. |  |  |  |  | And their heart was not upright with him,  nor were they true to his covenant. |  |  |
| 38 Yet He Who is compassionate  forgave their sins and did not destroy them;  again and again He averted His anger  and did not let His wrath consume them. |  |  |  |  | Yet he is compassionate  and will atone for their sins and not destroy them,  and he will increase to turn away his anger and not ignite all his wrath. |  |  |
| 39 He remembered that they were flesh,  a spirit that passes and never returns. |  |  |  |  | And he remembered that they were flesh,  a breath that passes and does not come again. |  |  |
| 40 How often they provoked Him in the wilderness  and grieved Him in the desert! |  |  |  |  | How often they embittered him in the wilderness;  they provoked him ot anger in an arid land! |  |  |
| 41 They turned back and tempted God,  and provoked the Holy One of Israel. |  |  |  |  | And they turned about and tested God,  and the Holy One of Israel they provoked. |  |  |
| 42 They did not remember His hand,  or the day when He redeemed them  from the hand of the oppressor, |  |  |  |  | They did not keep in mind his hand,  the day on which he redeemed them from an oppressor’s hand; |  |  |
| 43 how He wrought His signs in Egypt,  and His wonders in the field of Tanis, |  |  |  |  | how he displayed in Egypt his signs,  and his wonders in Tanis’ plain. |  |  |
| 44 and turned into blood their rivers and rain-water,  so that they could not drink. |  |  |  |  | And he turned their rivers into blood,  and their pools, so that they could not drink. |  |  |
| 45 He sent them the dog-fly and it devoured them,  and the frog and it destroyed them. |  |  |  |  | He sent a dog-fly among them, and it devoured them,  and a frog, and it destroyed them. |  |  |
| 46 And He gave their crops to the mildew,  and the fruit of their labors to the locust. |  |  |  |  | And he gave their crops over to the rust,  and their labors to the grasshopper. |  |  |
| 47 He killed their vines with hail,  and their mulberry trees with frost. |  |  |  |  | He killed their vine with hail  and their mulberry trees with the hoar-forst. |  |  |
| 48 And He gave up their cattle to the hail,  and their produce to the fire. |  |  |  |  | And he gave over their cattle to hail  and their property to the fire. |  |  |
| 49 He sent upon them His furious wrath,  fury and wrath and trouble,  a visitation of evil angels. |  |  |  |  | He sent among them his anger’s wrath,  anger and wrath and affliction,  a dispatch through wicked angels. |  |  |
| 50 He gave free range to His wrath,  He spared not their lives from death  and to death consigned their cattle. |  |  |  |  | He made a path for his wrath;  he did not spare their souls from death,  and their cattle he consigned to death. |  |  |
| 51 And He struck all the first-born in the land of Egypt,  all their labor’s first-fruits in the homesteads of Ham, |  |  |  |  | And he struck every firstborn in Egypt,  first fruit of their labors in the coverts of Cham. |  |  |
| 52 Then He removed His people like a herd of sheep,  and led them like a flock in the wilderness. |  |  |  |  | And he removed his people like sheep  and brought them up like a flock in a wilderness. |  |  |
| 53 And He guided them with hope so they were not afraid,  while the sea closed over their enemies. |  |  |  |  | And he guided them in hope, and they were not in dread,  but their enemies a sea covered. |  |  |
| 54 And He brought them to His mountain sanctuary,  to this mountain which His right hand acquired. |  |  |  |  | And he brought them to a territory of his holy precinct,  this mountain that his right hand acquired. |  |  |
| 55 And He drove out nations from before them,  and gave each his share of land by lot  and settled the tribes of Israel in their homesteads. |  |  |  |  | And he threw out nations from before them,  and he distributed to them shares by measuring line  and made the tribes of Israel encamp in their coverts. |  |  |
| 56 Yet they tempted and provoked the Most High God,  and did not keep His testimonies. |  |  |  |  | And they tested and embittered God the Most High.  And his testimonies they did not observe |  |  |
| 57 They turned away and broke faith like their fathers,  they twisted like a crooked bow. |  |  |  |  | and turned away and were faithless as also their fathers;  they were twisted into a crooked bow. |  |  |
| 58 They provoked Him with their high places  and defied Him with their carved images. |  |  |  |  | And they provoked him to anger with their hills,  and with their carved images they moved him to jealousy. |  |  |
| 59 God heard of it and disdained them,  and utterly rejected Israel. |  |  |  |  | God heard and disdained,  and he treated Israel with utter contempt. |  |  |
| 60 And He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,  His tent where He dwelt among men. |  |  |  |  | And he rejected his tent at Selo [Selom],  [and] a covert where he encamped among human beings, |  |  |
| 61 And He delivered their strength into captivity,  and their beauty into the power of their enemies. |  |  |  |  | and gave their strength over to captivity  and their comeliness into an enemy’s hands. |  |  |
| 62 And He consigned His people to the sword,  and despised His inheritance. |  |  |  |  | And he consigned his people to a sword,  and his heritage he disdained. |  |  |
| 63 Fire consumed their young men,  and their virgins raised no lament. |  |  |  |  | Their young men fire devoured,  and their girls were not bewailed. |  |  |
| 64 Their priests fell by the sword,  and their widows sang no dirge. |  |  |  |  | Their priests fell by sword,  and their widows will not be lamented. |  |  |
| 65 Then the Lord awoke as if from sleep,  like a warrior recovered from wine. |  |  |  |  | And the Lord awoke as one that sleeps,  like a strong man intoxicated with wine. |  |  |
| 66 And He struck His enemies in the rear:  He branded them with eternal disgrace. |  |  |  |  | And he struck his enemies backwards;  everlasting disgrace he put them to. |  |  |
| 67 And He rejected the dwelling of Joseph,  and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim. |  |  |  |  | And he rejected the covert of Ioseph,  and the tribe of Ephriam he did not choose, |  |  |
| 68 But He chose the tribe of Judah,  Mount Zion which He loved. |  |  |  |  | and he chose the tribe of Ioudas,  Mount Sion, which he loved. |  |  |
| 69 And He built His sanctuary like the horn of a rhinoceros;[[5]](#footnote-5)  He established it in the land for ever. |  |  |  |  | And he built his holy precinct like that of unicorns,  in the land—he founded it [possibly Sion] forever. |  |  |
| 70 And He chose His servant David,  and took him from his flocks of sheep— |  |  |  |  | And he chose Dauid his slave  and took him from the sheepfolds of the sheep; |  |  |
| 71 from behind lambing ewes He took him  to shepherd His servant Jacob  and Israel His inheritance. |  |  |  |  | from behind the lambing ewes he took him  to shepherd Iakob his people  and Israel his inheritance. |  |  |
| 72 And he shepherded them in the innocence of his heart.  and guided them with the wisdom of his hands. |  |  |  |  | And he shepherded them in the innocence of his heart,  and by the cleverness of his hands he guided them. |  |  |

1. The Word Who is the open door and light and key to the riddles of the universe quotes the first line of this verse verbatim and the second line with slight verbal changes thus (Matt. 13:35):

   ‘I will speak My mind in parables,

   divulge secrets hidden since creation’ (cp. Rev. 3:14). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Ark of Witness or Testimony, containing the Law which testified to God’s will for men, revealing the way of life (Ex. 25:16; 31:18). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ephraim = Israel (cp. Hos. 7; Num. 14; 1 Sam. 4). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. He deferred giving them the promised food and the Promised Land. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ‘The rhinoceros is an invincible animal, because it has on its forehead a sharp horn with which it kills every beast. So the Psalmist says that when God’s temple was built, all the nations submitted and yielded to the power that dwelt in it’ (St Athanasius). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)