

PSALMS

Book 3

Psalm 78

In this psalm, the writer (Asaph) exhorts his people to heed his admonition and pass on to the coming generation the deeds and word of God. This is a critical task and the failure of God's people to do this resulted in disaster on many occasions. If everyone in our nation were believers at this moment, we would still be merely one generation from apostasy.

1. Asaph calls to his people to listen to the ancient words that describe God and His works and

pass them on. 1-39

a. Words passed down from their fathers.

b. Words to be passed on to their children, equipping them to disciple the next generation.

(See Dt 4:9,
6:7, 11:18-25)

- The praiseworthy deeds of God, His power and wonders.

- God's laws and statutes (which God commanded Israel to teach their children).

- This produces generational fruit.

- This practice breaks the chain of generational sin.

* The people God led out from Egypt failed often. They forgot His works, wonders and miracles.

* They saw it all and continued to rebel against Him. (Dt 9:6-14)

* They saw it all and yet lacked faith to follow Him.

* Their rebellion resulted in judgement.

* Their rebellion was cyclic: Complacency, rebellion, judgement, repentance, deliverance, blessing.

And repeat (See the whole book of Judges for examples). (See Judge 2:16-23)

* Yet in all of this, God was merciful (Ps 103).

2. Their rebellion was chronic. They did not remember His deliverance and power. 40-55

a. Exodus from Egypt.

b. God's provision, guidance and ingratitude.

c. His judgments and their consequences.

d. His mercy expressed (even) in judgment. (e.g., Ps 103:14)

e. Why? Because they did not remember who He is (vs 42-55).

- He is their Redeemer. (Ps 106:6-48)

- He is powerful (plagues). (Ex 7-11)

- He is their Shepherd. (Jn 10:11, Is 40:11)

- He is their Provider. (Gen 22:14)

3. Israel knew all this and still rebelled 56-64

a. God holds His people accountable. (e.g., Heb 3:18)

b. God also defends them.

c. God chose Judah, Jerusalem and the house of David.

- God took him from the sheep pens to shepherd Israel.

- David did it with integrity of heart and skillful hands.