

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Rhema Christian Center Triumphant Tuesday-Bible Study

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Presenter: Rochelle Pitts

Psalm 78:

- Historical Psalm/Accountant
- God's guidance of His people despite their unfaithfulness
- What God has done for His people and what His people have done against Him
- God's goodness and mercy to sinful Israel, His chosen people

Composer: Asaph

- Appointed by David as a worship leader
- Prophetic, Chief Musician, in his skill/writings
- Contemplation-Proverb

Psalm 78 Overview:

- **Vs. 1-4** People of God give attention; hear God's wisdom
- **Vs. 5-8** Teach one generation to avoid the errors of previous generations
- **Vs. 9-11** Losing the spiritual battle
- **Vs. 12-16** God worked many miracles bringing Israel out of Egypt and keeping them in the wilderness
- **Vs. 17-20** Israel's response to God's wonderful works
- **Vs. 21-31** God's response to Israel's unbelief and mistrust
- **Vs. 32-37** Israel continued to sin
- **Vs. 38-39** God's mercy towards a sinful Israel
- **Vs. 40-55** Accounts where Israel failed to remember the power of God
- **Vs. 56-64** The tragedy at Shiloh
- **Vs. 65-66** God's triumph after Shiloh
- **Vs. 67-72** The hopeful choice of Jerusalem and David

A. Introduction: Learning from the past, teaching for the future.

Vs.1-4 People of God give attention; hear God's wisdom

Vs. 1

- Hearken unto me; Come unto me and hear
- Hear and obey the Law of Moses
- Importance of religious instruction to be given from generation to generation
- Teach the children the deeds of the Lord

Read: Isaiah 55:3

Vs. 2

- Dark sayings, not mystical, but perhaps difficult to understand

Read: Psalm 49:4; Matthew 13:35

Vs. 3-4

- Teach at all times:
 - Praises of the Lord
 - Strength of the Lord
 - Marvelous works of the Lord
- Make known the truth
- Instruct
- Tell, with thanksgiving, of all of God's marvelous works

Read: Psalm 44:1; Deuteronomy 6:7; Joel 1:3

- Those who forget God's work are sure to fail in their own. Charles Spurgeon

Vs. 5-8 Teach one generation to avoid the errors of previous generations

- 5 Generations: 1. Fathers 2. Children 3. Generation to Come 4. Unborn 5. Unborn's children
- We teach our children, and we teach our children how to teach their children
- Teach children:
 - Trust/Hope in God
 - Never forget the works of God
 - Keep God's commandments
- Don't be like their fathers:
 - Stubborn
 - Rebellious
 - Hearts not loyal to God
 - Spirit not faithful to God

Read: Psalm 22:31

Vs. 9-11 Losing the spiritual battle

- Ephraim was the Northern Tribe; the larger tribe of Israel
- God prepared Ephraim for battle (spiritual) but they chose not to use their weapons- God's law
- Ephraim symbolic of the backslider
- Ephraim sinned against God in disobedience
 - Turned their backs
 - Did not keep the covenant/laws of God
 - Refused to live by God's law
 - Forgot what God had done

Read: Ephesians 6:11-18

B. Stubborn, rebellious Israel in the Exodus from Egypt

Vs.12-16 God worked many miracles bringing Israel out of Egypt and keeping them in the wilderness

- God divided the sea; made the waters stand up
- Led Israel through on dry land
- Led Israel by cloud in the day
- Led Israel by fire in the night
- Gave them abundant waters in the wilderness

Vs. 17-20 Israel's response to God's wonderful works

Israel:

- Continued to sin
- We're not grateful, ungrateful
- Murmured against God
- Tested God's patience and power
- Did not trust God
- Questioned God's ability, but can God do this? And can God do that?

Read: Psalm 23:5

- Much like us at times, we're not satisfied with God's provision
- We want what we want, when we want it, and how we want it; NOT what God wants for us, how God wants to provide it to us and when He wants to give it to us.
- Lord forgive our sin.

Vs. 21-31 God's response to Israel's unbelief and mistrust

- God was angered and furious
- Fire (judgement) rose up against them (Israel)
- God open the doors of heaven and gave Israel what they asked for
- God gave them bread and meat, all they could eat
- God delivered it in their camps, they did not have to go search for it
- The wrath of God came against them (Israel)

Read: Numbers 11:33

- When our desires don't line up with God's desires for us, we are never satisfied.
- We become a slave to being satisfied, always wanting more.
- Only you Lord can satisfy, we want more of You Lord.

Vs. 32-37 Israel continued to sin

- Despite the plague Israel continued to sin
- Result of sin was their days were pointless, meaningless, worthless, purposeless

- Lived in fear
- Israel sought God to get out of trouble, but it was not sincere
- Israel's words had no meaning
- Israel repented with their mouths but not with their hearts
- Israel's heart was not loyal to God, they were not faithful in His covenant

Read: Numbers 32:23

Vs. 38-39 God's mercy towards a sinful Israel

- God repeatedly showed mercy, love, and compassion towards Israel
- God remembered we are dust

Read: Psalm 103:14; James 4:14

Commentary: Charles Spurgeon

- Old Testament-God continued to show mercy because Moses was a mediator/intercessor and prayed for the people
- New Testament-God continues to show mercy because Jesus is our mediator/intercessor before the Throne of God

Vs. 40-55 Accounts where Israel failed to remember the power of God

- Israel continually provoked, irritated, annoyed, frustrated, and grieved God
- They did not remember God:
 - Redeemed them from the enemy
 - Parted the Red Sea
 - Turned river into blood
 - Sent swarm of flies
 - Destroyed with frogs
 - Grasshoppers ate crops
 - Fire from heaven
 - Destroyed the firstborn
- Egypt would not let go of God's first born, Israel, so God took Egypt's first born
- Exodus 7-11 Outlines the 10 plagues
- Each plague was tied to an Egyptian idol, gods, goddess that the Egyptians worshipped; God delivered the plagues to show that He was more powerful than the Egyptian gods
- God's mercy, was given towards Israel, they did not get what they deserve
- God led them to safety, they did not fear they trusted, were confident, hopeful that they were under God's security and peace
- God took them into the promise land and gave them an inheritance (by survey/land)

Read: Psalm 77:20; Psalm 23:1

C. Stubborn, rebellious Israel in the Promised Land

Vs. 56-64 The tragedy at Shiloh.

- Israel again rebelled, provoked, and tested God
- Israel turned their back, was unfaithful, and deceitful
- They set up idols and graven images
- Sacrifices were made unto idols in high places

Read: Numbers 33:52

- The result of their sin caused the departure of God's presence
- The Ark of the Covenant was in Shiloh
- God allowed the Philistines to take the Ark of the Covenant
- God's presence left Israel

Vs. 65-66 God's triumph after Shiloh

- Israel's perception is that God is asleep
- God wakes up because of wine and removes His judgement
- God is not drunk, wine symbolizes renewed strength

Read: Psalm 121:4

Vs. 67-72 The hopeful choice of Jerusalem and David.

- God rejects tribe of Ephraim and chose the tribe of Judah
- God establishes His presence in Mount Zion; Jerusalem the spiritual place of Israel
- He chose David, His servant, to tend to, care for and provide for His chosen people
- God ends on a positive and we see the goodness of God

Reflection:

- **God loves us and desires it goes well with us.**

Lamentations 3:22-24

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

- **Let us recognize our failures, when we fall short, when we doubt God's ability...over and over again...confess, repent and turn away from our sin.**

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

- **That we would not repeat the sins of our father's, we teach our children God's way.**

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have **life**, and that they may have *it* more **abundantly**.

- **Allow the God of Psalm 78, who is merciful, compassionate, loving; who is Our Teacher, The Rock, The Bread of Life and Our Shepherd to deliver, set free, restore and make us whole.**

Resources

Bible:

New King James
New International
Spirit Filled Life

Websites:

Enduringword.com
Biblegateway.com
Blueletterbible.org

Study Tool:

The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

Commentary:

Charles Spurgeon