

PSALM 78 vs 1

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This is the 7th of 12 Psalms ascribed to Asaph, bearing this seer's name. In 2 Chronicles 29, Hezekiah ordered the Levites "to sing the words of David and of Asaph the seer" ... evidence the Spirit of God continues inspiring others to consider the ways of the Lord. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve.**

Divisions: This is rightly entitled an instructive Psalm. It is Asaph's epic song, not a mere summary of important events in their history, but lyrics intended to be viewed as a parable setting forth the behavior and experience of believers in all ages; its unity is maintained: to the reader as a preface (1-8); Israel in the wilderness (9-41); the Lord bringing them out of Egypt by plagues and wonders (42-52); more history of the tribes (53-66); moving the ark to Zion (67-72), moving the focus to Judah – Charles Spurgeon.



A Maskil of Asaph,

¹ Listen, O My people, to My law: bend your ear to the words of My mouth.

² I will open My mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

³ which we heard and know, and our fathers told us;

⁴ not hid from their children; but to the generation to come telling the praises of the LORD, His strength, and His wonderful works He has done.

⁵ For He established a testimony in **Jacob, and a law placed in **Israel**, which He instructed our fathers, that they make them known to their children:**

⁶ that the generation to come might know, that the children who would be born; would arise and declare them to their children:

⁷ that they set their hope in God,

and not forget the works of God, but guard His commandments:

⁸ and not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that did not set their heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful with God.

Think about it: Have you ever wondered, what if God is the greatest multi-tasker in a miraculous universe; what if He didn't totally design every step of mankind, but allows great freedom in our daily choices, even to our own hurt when choosing. Coerced love, is not love freely given. Some say they follow the Lord, but seem to be afraid to choose between a black or beige or multi-colored shirt; or dress, or vehicle; or cannot decide between iced tea, coffee or water, as if God must first approve. I say about those things He doesn't care; He already told Adam, of all the varieties of trees, choose. He doesn't care if we prefer apples to oranges; or peaches to pears. But when He does speak to His people, He hopes that we will listen.

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Yet I sort of get the impression, if we want to foolishly drive a sports car over the cliff, He is under no obligation, and just might not stop us; He respects the freedom He has given to individuals. I remember reading about a high school girl who said: "my car, my rules"; and her friends all jumped into her car. Sadly, five minutes later, all her friends were dead: I wonder if those friends knew about her strange rules.

God's rules are orderly and not burdensome. **Moses was on the scene when God gave His 10 rules.** And we just read: **be not like your fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation.** There was room for improvement, those rebellious against God's way, are sorry examples for their children (if they have any). Remember: your freedom ends where my nose begins. On earth, such faithless idiocy might be allowed, but like David, we're getting ready to one day live in the house of the Lord forever, and I bet it looks better than any scummy shack in Beverly Hills; River Oaks, or the NYC Plaza District. **Learn His rules.**

⁹ The greatly blessed children of **Ephraim**, armed and carrying bows, retreated in the day of battle;

¹⁰ and did not **keep** the covenant of God, and in His law refused to walk;

¹¹ and forgot His works and His wonders that He showed them.

¹² In the sight of their fathers He did marvelous things, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

¹³ **He divided the sea, and they passed through;** He made the waters to stand as a heap.

¹⁴ And He led them with a cloud in the daytime, and all the night with a light of fire.

¹⁵ He split the **rocks** in the wilderness, and gave them drink as from the great depths.

¹⁶ He brought streams from **the rock**, and caused the waters to run down like rivers.

¹⁷ But more they sinned against Him; irritating the Most High in the wilderness;

¹⁸ and they tested God in their heart, asking food according to their desire.

¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

²⁰ Behold, He struck **the rock**, that waters gushed out, and streams overflowed;



Figure 1 THE NUWEIBA SHORELINE WHERE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CROSSED THE YAM SUPH



Figure 2 THE MASSIVE ROCK AT HOREB

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arrogantly, snidely, and lazily they gave their list of cheap shots provoking the Lord; they had their own cattle with them, yet they expected The Lord to provide maid service for the criminally insane; **can He give bread also? can He provide filet mignon or at least a porterhouse steak for His people?**

21 So when the LORD heard this, He was furious / like any good father would be: a fire ignited against Jacob, and anger came up against Israel;

22 because they did not believe God, and did not trust in His salvation / in His Yeshua:

23 and still He commanded the clouds above, and opened the doors of heaven,

24 and rained down on them manna to eat, giving them food from heaven;

25 food the mighty angels ate, He sent these men food to the full.

26 He drove an east wind blowing in the heaven: and by His power brought the south wind.

27 He rained meat on them like dust, even winged birds like the sand of the sea:

28 and He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled: for He gave them their own desires;

30 not deprived of their craving / they were not separated, not disconnected from their desires.

But while their food was yet in their mouths,

31 the wrath of God came against them, and slew the most obese of them, and the choice men of Israel were struck down.

32 In spite of this they sinned still, and did not believe His wondrous works.

33 Therefore He consumed in vanity their days, and their years in fear;

34 when He slew them, then they sought Him: then they returned and searched for God.

35 And they remembered that God was their Rock: the Most High God their Redeemer.

36 But they deceived Him with their mouths, and with their tongues lied to Him.

37 For their heart was not unwavering with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.

38 But He, full of mercy, forgave their crime, and did not destroy them: yes, many times He turned away His anger, and did not stir up all His wrath.

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39 For He remembered they were flesh; a wind that passes away, that does not come again.

40 How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness, and grieve Him in the desert!

41 Yes, again and again they tested God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Think about it: They were fickle as a wind gauge; every wind turned them every way. Their promises were no sooner made than broken, as if made in mockery. They were hot today; cold tomorrow. Though they were full of flattery, He was full of mercy; not because of their pretensions, but due to His compassion. He was very slow to anger. When His wrath is kindled, only a few are burned up as chaff; but were He to let go His anger, the whole earth would melt. We see the extent of God's compassion, but never all His wrath. They were as constant in their aggravation, as He was in His patience. In our case, what book could record all our rebellions? The wilderness was a place of dependence, where they were helpless without supplies, yet they wounded the hand which fed them while it was in the act of feeding them – Charles Spurgeon.

42 They did not remember His power, the day He redeemed them from the enemy;

43 when He worked in Egypt His signs and His wonders in the field of Zoan;

44 and turned to blood their rivers, and their streams that they could not drink.

45 He sent among them swarms of insects that devoured them; and frogs that destroyed them.

46 He gave to the caterpillar their crops, and their labor to the locust.

47 He destroyed with hail their vines, and their sycamore trees with frost.

48 He gave up their cattle to the hail, and their flocks to fiery thunderbolts.

49 He threw His fierce anger on them; wrath, indignation and distress, sending angels of destruction.

50 He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, but gave their life over to the plague;

51 and destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt; the first of their strength in the tents of Ham:

52 but made His people go forth like sheep, and guided them like a flock in the wilderness.

Think about it: All this due to a govt leader who wouldn't let God's people go. God usually protects the innocent even the animals, but here He withdrew His safeguards and gave them up; may the Lord never give us up. Such display of divine power as those which smote Egypt with astonishment; you would think was difficult to forget; the plagues were signs of YHWH's presence, and proofs of His hatred of idols – CS.

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⁵³ He led them on safely, so they did not fear: **but the sea covered their enemies.**

⁵⁴ He brought them to the border of His holy place, even to this mountain, that His right hand purchased.

⁵⁵ He drove out the nations before them, and apportioned them an inheritance by line, and made to dwell in their tents the tribes of **Israel.**

⁵⁶ Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, and did not **keep** His testimonies:

⁵⁷ but retreated disloyally like their fathers: they turned aside like a deceitful bow;

⁵⁸ for they provoked Him to anger with their high places, and with their graven images moved Him to jealousy.

⁵⁹ When God heard, He was angry and greatly abhorred **Israel:**

⁶⁰ so He abandoned the Tent of Shiloh, the tent He placed among men;

⁶¹ and delivered His **strength** to captivity, and His **glory** into the hand of the enemy.

⁶² He delivered His people to the sword; and with His inheritance was furious.

⁶³ Fire consumed their young men; and their young women were not given a wedding song.

⁶⁴ His priests fell by the sword; and His widows did not weep.

⁶⁵ Then the LORD awoke as from sleep, and like a warrior shouts from lots of wine.

⁶⁶ And He beat His enemies butts: He put on them a perpetual scorn.

/ they were fickle; at the door of the tent shameless sin had been perpetrated, and all around it idols had been adorned; therefore the glory departed, and Ichabod was sounded as a word of dread concerning Shiloh and **the tribe of Ephraim**. The Lord would sooner dwell among His avowed adversaries than among so false a people as Israel; He would sooner bear the insults of Philistia than the treacheries of **Ephraim**, who needed his hardhead softened in Assyria and then places beyond **to fulfill his commonwealth destiny**. When God is gone, all is gone! -- Charles Spurgeon. Remember: **Israel** means = **governed by God**; and those who choose to be **governed by God** are **His strength**, and **His glory** – God's reason for boasting... here on earth. Today, **Ephraim** still carries all the birthright promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

⁶⁷ Also He rejected the tent of Joseph, **and the tribe of Ephraim He did not choose:** / as was just said, God had honored Ephraim, and to that tribe He gave Joshua the great conqueror, and Gideon the great judge, and within its borders, was Shiloh, the place of the ark, and the sanctuary. But now, the Lord would change all this; in order to prepare for the first coming of His Messiah.

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Fast-forward, with God's hopes and dreams endlessly dashed, **Israel** is first to be taken captive; now the Lord is banking on **Judah**... how will she do? The youngest should have learned the most from the elders.

68 but chose the tribe of **Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.**

69 And He built His holy place as the highest place, like the earth that He established forever.

70 He chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

71 from following the ewes with their young; He brought him to shepherd **Jacob His people, and **Israel** His inheritance.**

72 So He shepherded them with the integrity of His heart; and by the skillfulness of His hands He guided them.

Think about it: David was not chosen because he was a servant, but in order that he might be so. A shepherd of sheep he had been, and this was a fit school for a shepherd of men. Exercising the care and art of those who watch for the young lambs, David followed the ewes in their wanderings; the tenderness and patience acquired would prepare him for the office and dignity which God had appointed for him. David, whatever his faults, was upright before God, and never swerved in heart from the obedient worship of his Lord, the true King of kings – Charles Spurgeon.

Israeli Band : Psalm 150 | This is My Father's World

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: 

at the Nuweiba shoreline | Drone photos: The Red Sea Crossing to Sinai in Arabia

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.

How long was Israel in Egypt? : The Promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

We Came From Where? Young Earth vs Deep Time | Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology

The papyrus lpuwer | The Sheep Hear His Voice And They Follow Him

HALLELUJAH

The Temple / The City of Zion