

Evening Sermon – October 25, 2020
“Learn from Mistakes, Learn History” Psalm 78

I. *Asaph is a teacher, and he would have us teach our children history, both glad and sad – Psalm 78:-16*

1. *A contemplation, the title tells us Asaph wants us to THINK, to learn from this Psalm -Psalm 78 (NKJV) A Contemplation Of Asaph.*

2. *You want to LEARN, LISTEN -*

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. Psalm 78:1

3. *Parable, dark sayings? To children?*

² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

³ Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

⁴ We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. Psalm 78:2-4

Honestly, I am not seeing Parable, dark sayings here? So what is Asaph getting at?

A. *Too often all of Scripture is thought of this way, people are wrongly afraid of it!*

B. *Asaph, want his people, God’s people to teach EVERYONE – R.C. Sproul “Everyone’s a Theologian”*

C. *He says teach these things to children!*

4. *Testimony, law, God’s law should be taught to children -*

⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; ⁶ That the generation to come might know *them*, The children *who* would be born, *That* they may arise and declare *them* to their children, ⁷ That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

5. *The real dark, difficult part, our children will learn from our MISTAKES -*

⁸ And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation *that* did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God. Psalm 78:8

What mistakes? A. They were armed to the teeth with physical weapons, but lacking faith, lacking spiritual weapons -

⁹ The children of Ephraim, *being* armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. Psalm 78:9

⁷ Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:10–20 (NKJV)

B. They were not faithful to keep God’s commands -

¹⁰ They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, Psalm 78:10

C. They forgot what God had done, even His wonders! -

¹¹ And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them. ¹² Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, *in* the field of Zoan. ¹³ He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. ¹⁴ In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire. ¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave *them* drink in abundance like the depths. ¹⁶ He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers. Psalm 78:11-16

II. *Forgetting, sinning, makes sins worse, sin begets more sin – Psalm 78:17-34*

¹⁷ But they sinned even more against Him By rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. ¹⁸ And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy.

Arnold Brevick

¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God: They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?

²⁰ Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” ²¹

Therefore the LORD heard *this* and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel, ²² Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation. ²³ Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, ²⁴ Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. ²⁵ Men ate angels’ food; He sent them food to the full. ²⁶ He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind. ²⁷ He also rained meat on them like the dust, Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas; 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 desire. ³⁰ They were not deprived of their craving; But while their food was still in their mouths, ³¹ The wrath of God came against them, And slew the stoutest of them, And struck down the choice *men* of Israel. ³² In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works. ³³ Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear. Psalm 78:17-34



1. Sins were heart sins and lack of faith
2. Sins were food sins

III. *Though repentance was not perfect, God’s mercy was great!*

³⁴ When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. ³⁵ Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. ³⁶ Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; ³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant. ³⁸ But He, *being* full of compassion, forgave

their iniquity, And did not destroy *them*. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath; ³⁹ For He remembered that they *were but* flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again. Psalm 78:34-39

1. *When God punishes us we pray* - :34
2. *We remember God* - :35
3. *We still have faults* - :36-37
4. *But God’s compassion and forgiveness is great* -38
5. *Because He understands our weakness* - :39

⁴⁰How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert! ⁴¹Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. ⁴²They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, ⁴³When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan; ⁴⁴Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink. ⁴⁵He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them. ⁴⁶He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust. ⁴⁷He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost. ⁴⁸He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning. ⁴⁹He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them. ⁵⁰He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague, ⁵¹And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first of their strength in the tents of Ham. ⁵²But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock; ⁵³And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies. ⁵⁴And He brought them to His holy border, This mountain which His right hand had acquired. ⁵⁵He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents. ⁵⁶Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies, ⁵⁷But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; They were turned aside like a deceitful bow. ⁵⁸For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. ⁵⁹When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, ⁶⁰So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men, ⁶¹And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy’s hand. ⁶²He also gave His people over to the sword, And was furious with His inheritance. ⁶³The fire consumed their young men, And their maidens were not given in marriage. ⁶⁴Their priests fell by the sword, And their widows made no lamentation. ⁶⁵Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine. ⁶⁶And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach. ⁶⁷Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, ⁶⁸But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. ⁶⁹And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever. ⁷⁰He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. ⁷²So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. Psalm 78:39–72 (NKJV)