

## Psalm 78:1-8

### LAW: MAKE KNOWN GOD AND HIS WORKS

- I. The command.
  - A. "Fathers" (includes mothers).
  - B. "Their children" are the ones to be instructed.
  - C. It is a "command," i.e., a charge, a commission; and a "law" is a legal directive.
  - D. The calling is to "shew" or "declare" (same word, 4,6): to recount or rehearse accurately. Three things are implied.
    1. To "make known" (5) is to reveal in such a way that we know we are understood.
    2. It refers to a constant speaking of them, by repetition, i.e., memorization and a steady diet.
    3. This instruction is to be characterized by urgency.
- II. What parents must teach their children is that God is, His virtues and works.
  - A. The content of the instruction is: the laws of God given at Sinai and the history of God's care over Israel.
  - B. This includes an oral tradition God's "wonderful works" of creation, history, and redemption, showing "His strength" (4).
  - C. And the "praises of Jehovah" (4) are to be taught.
  - D. Because mere instruction doesn't put it into their hearts, all instruction must be accompanied with fervent prayer for the Spirit!!
- III. God's promise is very encouraging.
  - A. Encouragement is necessary because godly parents know they only give their children the right to hell.
  - B. What God promised to Abraham (in his generations) is by means of Abraham commanding his children (Gen. 18:19).
  - C. By grace they will "not forget the works of God, but keep His commandment" like Israel of old.
  - D. They will "set their hope in God" (7a) and they will learn humility and the fear of Jehovah (Prov. 22:4).
  - E. And they, in turn, will tell "their children" (5b). "Tell it to the generation following" (Ps. 48:13b).