

## Lesson 10 *Lessons of the Past*

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- This week = dive into HISTORICAL PSALMS
- Some appeal to God's people to learn from history
  - Particularly = their mistakes/mistakes of ancestors
- Others highlight God's wonderful past deeds/ behalf of His people
- Remembering His past acts = strengthens our trust in Lord
  - who is able/faithful to deliver from present hardships
- These Psalms take on form of PRAISE
  - narrate His mighty acts of salvation
- Such is = Memory Text:

**PSALMS 78:3-4** "Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 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"

- Since Christians = adopted into historic people of God thru Christ
  - Help us to see our lives = as part of history of God's people
  - Spiritual ancestry revealed
  - Recognize each generation of God's people play small—but significant part of grand historical unfolding of God's sovereign purposes in Great Controversy

### SUNDAY

### The Lord's Unstoppable Faithfulness

PSALM 78 = Asaph recites **Three historical periods of Israel's past**

- 1) the Exodus (*vss. 9–54*)
- 2) the settlement in Canaan (*vss. 55–64*)
- 3) and the time of David (*vss.:65–72*).

**Makes sharp contrast** = God's faithfulness in comparison to Israel's unfaithfulness

## Recurring lessons drawn from each period = Asaph warning future generations not to repeat mistakes of our ancestors

**PS 78:6-12** <sup>6</sup>That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, <sup>7</sup>That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But **keep His commandments**; <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. <sup>10</sup>They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, <sup>11</sup>And forgot His works /His wonders that He had shown them. <sup>12</sup>Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers,

- Throughout Psalms = Clearly demonstrates = Lord's glorious deeds = consequences for the people who broke covenant w/ Him
- God parted waters of Red Sea at beginning of the Exodus
  - "waters stand up like a heap" = passed thru on dry ground
  - covered pursuing Egyptian army = people praised God
- In spite of witnessing miracle = Three days later complaining bitterly over bitter water at Marah = Elim = Desert of Sin = tested God asking for the food of their fancy
- Provision of manna = set a table in wilderness = quail dropped into Israel's camp
- Rephidim (4<sup>th</sup> layover) "split the rocks" – second time God brought water gushing out of rock like rivers
- Over and over = God proved His faithfulness
- Stresses= root of Israel's unfaithfulness = forgot what God had done for them = did not trust God = repeatedly put God to the test

**Psalm 78:22 ISRAEL'S GREAT SIN** Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.

- God continually showed them faithfulness / covenant love
- When People forgot God's past wonders = neglected His covenantal requirements = unsuccessful in battle
- human efforts are futile apart from faithfulness to God
  - doomed to end in failure

**Psalm 78:32–42** <sup>32</sup>In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works. <sup>33</sup>Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear. <sup>34</sup>When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. <sup>35</sup>Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. <sup>36</sup>Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; <sup>37</sup>For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

<sup>38</sup>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; <sup>39</sup>For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again. <sup>40</sup>How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!

<sup>41</sup>Yes, again and again they tempted God, And **limited** the Holy One of Israel. [HOW DID THEY LIMIT GOD?] <sup>42</sup>They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,

**Psalm 78:58** For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.

- Lesson to be learned = don't repeat mistakes of past = learn from mistakes / turn to God
- Trust in Him = remain faithful to His covenant = keep commandments
- Our will should be grounded in constant acceptance of God's grace and complete awareness of God's faithfulness