

## Summer In The Psalms II - #2 - "Our Fathers"

### Psalm 78:1-8

Happy Father's Day! As we continue in Psalms - God's playlist for the soul – we come to a stop that is particularly appropriate for Father's Day.

Our text on this Father's Day speaks of "*our fathers*", kids and their kids.

**Every generation lives downstream from someone, and upstream from someone else. Every generation *receives a sacred trust and a solemn choice.***

**The message isn't just for Fathers and their kids, but for all of God's kids.**

### **I. The Invitation. – "O my people"**

**A. Longing** – As the music of heaven plays a message to our souls – We can hear the heart of God: "**O my people...**"

**Before God gives instruction, He expresses affection.**

The voice that says, "**Listen**" is the same voice that says, "**My people.**"

**That longing produces a sincere invitation:**

**B. "Give ear" – Listen.**

**C. "Incline your ears to the word of my mouth" - Lean in.**

Then, to add to the drama we find...

### **II. Intrigue.**

**A. "A parable":**

**proverb of the ancients,** sentences of ethical wisdom, poem

**B. "dark sayings of old":**

- a puzzle, conundrum (Strong)
- "**riddle, perplexing saying or question**"

Clue: Vs. 4 – "**We will not hide them from their children... shewing to the generation to come**"...

**Generational Truths That Transcend the passing of Time.**

**This Psalm leads us not to just inspiration, but radical transformation.  
The stakes couldn't be higher.**

### **III. (Transformational) Information. The "What"**

#### A. **"The praises of the LORD"** – vs. 4

Begin with praise! God Himself inhabits the praises of His people!

Begin with How Great Is Our God! Worship.

Paul and Silas – Philippi- "sang praises at midnight"

#### B. **"and His strength"**

The focus is on the facts: His Ability. Power.

**God is able. Period.**

**"In the beginning God..."**. Period.

**All that comes after is just revelation and explanation.**

#### C. **"and his wonderful works He has done"**

What He's Done.

**The past is not just a display of wonderful works. It is His calling card as He leads us into the future!**

#### D. Sources: Vs. 5 – **"For He..."**

**Not** blind or ignorant faith. **Not** just wishful thinking!

**God gave two sources to build a foundation of faith for the future:**

##### **1. "Testimonies"**

*"He established a testimony in Jacob"*

**The evidence of God from the lips of those who have experienced Him.**

Similar to Acts 1:8- **"You shall be witnesses"**

- **The stories we have learned and tell.**  
**More than stories - they are time capsules unlocking what God has done in the past for those who have yet to meet and experience Him.**

- **The stories our lives tell!**

They will speak.

They will often say more than our words!

What is the story of our life – this morning?

**“Testimonies are hope with fingerprints on them”.**

**2. The Word** - **“appointed a law... which he commanded our fathers that they should make them known unto their children”**

**“a law”**: **Not just the ten commandments.**

- David would often write how he meditated in the law...  
*“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”*  
*“Thy Word have I hid in my heart”*
- God told Joshua in **Joshua 1** to learn it and live it, to meditate in it, to not turn left or right from it...

**“law” = The powerful, promising Word of God**

I just this week was touched by the words of Charles Stanley:

*“He’s given us something better than a rainbow.*

*According to this... I will never be dissatisfied with God.*

*I can trust God totally and eternally.”*

**Jesus** - *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.* (Matthew 24:35)

#### **IV. Vs. 6-7 – The Intent – “That...”**

**God never gives truth without purpose.**

**There is always a "that" behind the "what."**

**A. vs. 6 - "That they..."**

Future generations!

Kids... grandkids...

The hope for the future.

**If we could give them anything, what would it be?**

Before we consider the Psalmist's answer, **note a dark and dangerous warning**

**B. Vs. 8 - ..."might not be as their fathers" – A Warning**

God led the Psalmist to record the lengthy and tragic story of those who failed to trust God, and the devastating consequences that followed.

**History is littered with the ruins and regrets of those who failed to know and trust Jesus.**

*What is the most important thing we could desire for ourselves, our families- the world?*

**C. Vs. 7 - "That they might..."**

**1. "Set their hope in God".**

**We are given the stories not merely to preserve information, but to cultivate hope.**

- Not just **informed minds**.
- Not just **preserved traditions**.
- **But hope...**
  - **Hope handed down.**
  - **Hope renewed.**
  - **Hope that outlives us.**

**We don't pass truth to the next generation merely *so they will know what we knew, but so they may hope in the God we have known.***

I love the words of the old hymn –

***“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”***

**Jesus warned of the danger of giving the whole world but losing it all!**

**Hope in God - Give them Jesus!**

**2. “not forget the works of God” – A fear and a warning.**

The Bible warns often about forgetting...

**Forgetting God never leaves a vacuum. Something else always rushes in to take His place. All but Jesus will lead to heartache!**

**3. “keep his commandments”**

**When we, and our children, and future generations**

- **Look right – eyes on Him!**
- **Live right –**

How can we doubt Him or even think to disobey Him?

Jesus- ***“If you love me, keep my commandments”***

**We will experience for ourselves the wonderful works of God, and become part of the never-ending story of those who are glad they did.**

**Our lives and our lips are this very day forming a foundation for the future.**