

## Psalm 76 Lair of the Lion of Judah

To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

1 In **Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.** 2 In **Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.** 3 There He **broke the arrows of the bow,** The shield and sword of battle. **Selah** 4 You are more glorious and excellent Than the mountains of prey. 5 The stouthearted were plundered; They have sunk into their sleep; And none of the mighty men have found the use of their hands. 6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Both the **chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep.** 7 You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry? 8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still, 9 **When God arose to judgment,** To deliver all the oppressed of the earth. **Selah** 10 **Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;** With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself. 11 Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay them; Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared. 12 He shall cut off the spirit of princes; **He is awesome to the kings of the earth.**

- **Asaph:** Messianic
- **V1-2 God chose to reveal Himself**

1. **One People**                      Jews
2. **One Nation**                     Israel
3. **One City**                         Jeru-**Salem** [lit. Teaching of Peace/Shalom]

**Jerusalem is God's Tabernacle: lit. His Lair**  
**Place the Lion of Judah Triumphed over Satan 2000 years ago**

**Colossians 2:14** ...having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having **disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a **public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

- Jesus rose from the Grave/Out of His lair: Justified/Vindicated. Enemies crushed
- Tabernacle/Lair/Place of Peace
- **Vv3-9** Jesus enemies **don't to awaken the Lion from His lair as in Egypt...**

v6 **Chariot/Horse Cast into Dead Sleep:** Pharaoh OT type of NT Anti-Christ

**Revelation 19:11** [Again come out of His lair to deal w/enemies] Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness **He judges and makes war.**

**Revelation 6:16** [They] said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the **wrath of the Lamb!**"

**Exodus 15:3** **The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name.**

Good to be on the right side of the Lion of Judah

- **V10** Surely the wrath of man shall praise You

During the GT God will use the wrath of man for His own praise

Every knee bowed/Every tongue confess Jesus as Lord even while cursing Him

- **Vv11-12 Jesus Messiah/King** on the Throne of David

1. Make vows to the Lord
2. Bring presents to Him

**Psalm 2:10** ... be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 **Kiss the Son, lest He be angry**, And you perish in the way, **When His wrath is kindled but a little**. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

The God of Israel is the Only Living God  
Those on His side have nothing to worry about

## **Psalm 77** Remembering God's Redemptive Works

To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

1 I cried out to God with my voice— To God with my voice; And He gave ear to me. 2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My **hand was stretched out** in the night **without ceasing**; My soul **refused to be comforted**. 3 I remembered God, and was troubled; **I complained**, and my spirit was overwhelmed. **Selah** 4 You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. 5 I have considered the days of old, The years of ancient times. 6 I call to remembrance **my song in the night**; **I meditate** within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search. 7 Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? 8 Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? **B** 10 And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High." 11 I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. 12 I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds. 13 **Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?** 14 You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples. 15 You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph. **Selah** 16 **The waters saw You**, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid; The depths also trembled. 17 The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound; Your arrows also flashed about. 18 The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook. 19 **Your way was in the sea**, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known. 20 You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

- **Asaph:** Spirit Overwhelmed
  - **Vv1-3** I seek but can't find
1. Cry w/my voice
  2. Stretch my hand

God keeps Psalmist awake. Is God finished with me?

- **Vv4-15** I remember Your redemptive works in my life...

1. **My Songs** toward You in the night
2. **Your Ways** toward me listening to Your Word in the Sanctuary...
3. **Your Works/Wonders** proclaimed...

Faith Building as Asaph begins to Magnify the Lord  
**Who is so Great a God as our God**

- **Vv 16-20 I Recall Your redemptive works in your people. When You rescued us...**

**Faith Building Default:** Crossing of the Red Sea/Resurrection  
 Because of what You have done... I can trust what You will do

## **Psalm 78** Recalling Our Rebellion and God's Kindness

A Contemplation of Asaph.

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears 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 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.

- **Asaph** during reigns David/Solomon
- **Theme:** Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it

I will open my mouth in a parable...Utter dark sayings of old

- **OT Dark Saying** Riddle/Question/Enigma/Puzzle meant to be put together/figured out
- **NT Parables** Story laid aside truth. Here actual stories from Israel's history

**Matthew 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables;** and without a parable He did not speak to them. 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "**I will open My mouth in parables;** I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

**Vv 5-72 [end] What is this story about?**

History of God's Kindness to Israel *in spite of them*

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; 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.

- **Testimony/Laws Established for Israel after leaving Egypt**
- Everything God commanded had **manifold meaning to be discerned**

**E.g. Passover:** Death would Passover those who apply the Blood...

**Exodus 12:26** ... when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'...

- **Parents commanded** to teach children using the story of Israel's history

**Deuteronomy 4:9** ...take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, **lest you forget the things your eyes have seen**, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren...

**Deuteronomy 6:7** You shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

**Isaiah 38:19b...** The **father shall make known Your truth to the children.**

[vv5-6] Five generations appear to be mentioned above: 1. Fathers; 2. Their children; 3. The generation to come; 4. And their children; 5. And their children. They were never to lose sight of their history throughout all their generations. [Clarke]

**Joel 1:3** **Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.**

9 The children of Ephraim, **being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle.** 10 They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, 11 And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.

- **Children of Ephraim:** Metaphor for Israel
- **Armed by God but turned back:** Complained/Did not believe God for victory

God equips us with weapons but do we use them? Eph. 6

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. 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.** 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?"

1. Red Sea Crossing
2. Water from Rock
3. Quail to Eat **in spite of Israel's complaining...**

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.

- **Gave them over to their own desire:** Worst curse of all. Quail

**Romans 1:24** ... [After denying the undeniable witness of creation...] God **also gave them up to uncleanness** [because they] ...**26b God gave them up to vile passions** ...**28b God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting ...

- **God Warns/God Waits/Man continues in sin...** kept eating as Quail came out their noses

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- **God demonstrates** His Power/Goodness...

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. 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.

- **Curse for unbelief:** Consumed by futility and fear
- **IOWs** if life seems empty/You live in fear it is due to unbelief. Pray for God to reveal

v33 **When He slew them...THEN they sought Him**

**Psalm 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray

- **Israel's Half-hearted Plea:** Just relieve my pain

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, **He remains faithful**; He cannot deny Himself.

**But God... being full of compassion forgave them**  
**He remembered that they were but flesh**

**Ephesians 2:1** And you **He made alive, who were dead** in trespasses and sins... **4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...

- **Quickened us/Gave us His Spirit:** No longer can say we are only human...

**1 Corinthians 3:3** ...you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, **are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?**

- **God's Spirit** will not always strive with man

40 **How often they provoked Him** in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!  
 41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And **limited the Holy One** of Israel. 42 They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,  
 43 When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;  
 44 Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink. 45 He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them. 46 He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust. 47 He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost. 48 He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning. 49 He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them. 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 He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock; 53 And **He led them on safely**, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies. 54 And He brought them to His holy border, This mountain which His right hand had acquired.

- **After 40** Years unbelieving generation died in wilderness
- Succeeding generation **entered in to God's promise...**

55 He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents. 56 **Yet they tested** and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies, 57 But **turned back and acted unfaithfully** like their fathers; They were **turned aside** like a deceitful bow. 58 For they **provoked Him to anger** with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. 59 When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, 60 So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men, 61 And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand. 62 He also gave His people over to the sword, And was furious with His inheritance. 63 The fire consumed their young men, And their maidens were not given in marriage. 64 Their priests fell by the sword, And their widows made no lamentation. 65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine. 66 And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach. 67 Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, 68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. 69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever. 70 **He also chose David** His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. **72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.**

- **David:** Man after God's own heart blessing God/others

**2 Samuel 5:2** [Of David] ...you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord said to you, '**You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.**' "

**1 Kings 9:4** [**David walked**] in integrity of heart and in uprightness...

- **David:** Precursor to Jesus our Great Shepherd

**Isaiah 40:11** He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Remembering our Rebellion and God's Kindness

## Psalm 79 Aftermath of Unheeded Warnings

A Psalm of Asaph.

1 O God, the nations have **come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled**; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps. 2 The **dead bodies** of Your servants They have given as food for the birds of the heavens, The **flesh of Your saints** to the beasts of the earth. 3 Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And there was no one to bury them. 4 **We have become a reproach to our neighbors**, A scorn and derision to those who are around us. 5 How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire? 6 **Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You**, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name. 7 For they have devoured Jacob, And laid waste his dwelling place. 8 Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low. 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and **provide atonement for our sins**, For Your name's sake! 10 Why should the nations say, "**Where is their God?**" Let there be known among the nations in our sight The avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed. 11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die; 12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom Their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord. 13 So we, **Your people and sheep of Your pasture**, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

- **Asaph:** Descendants of Asaph after Babylonian Invasion
- **V1 Nations came into Your Inheritance:** Heb. *bo'*. Same David w/ Bathsheba
  1. Violated **Your Holy Land**
  2. Violated **Your Holy Temple**
  3. Violated **Your Holy People but not after many years of warnings...**

**2 Chronicles 36:17** Therefore [God] brought against them the king of [Babylon], who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. 18 And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

**Jeremiah 26:18** "Micah...prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "**Zion shall be plowed like a**

**field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.”**

- **Vv2-3** Flesh to Beasts: God Warned/God Waited/God Judged
- **Deut. 28** Israel warned years before judgment...reminded over/over

**Deuteronomy 28:15** "...it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: ...**26** Your **carcasses shall be food** for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.

- **V4 We have become a reproach:** heb. *herpa*. Object of shame to be taunted
- **V5 Angry Forever?** Solomon called people to pray toward the Temple

**1 Kings 8:48** and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and **pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple** which I have built for Your name: **49** then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, **50** and forgive Your people who have sinned against You...

### **No Temple to left to pray toward**

Deep Regret for Disregarding God's Many warnings

- **Vv6-8** Destroy the Enemy/Have mercy on Your people
- **V9** **Provide Atonement:** At-one-ment with You
- **V10** Plea to act: Let them not say Where is your God?
- **Vv11-13** Desperate cry for help. Psalmist Grasping for words. Knows its over?
- **Entire Book of Jeremiah** **Warning after warning Disregarded**
- **Entire Book of Lamentations** **Description consequences. Utter Destruction**

Will You be angry forever?

**Lamentations 3:22** Through the **Lord's mercies** we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. **23** They **are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**

**V13** We, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

- **Why did it have to come to this?**

Jesus will act as either Shepherd or Judge. We get to Pick.

## **Psalm 80 Visit this Vine**

To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A Testimony of Asaph. A Psalm.

**1** Give ear, **O Shepherd of Israel**, You who lead Joseph **like a flock**; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! **2** Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come and save us! **3** Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved! **4** O Lord God of hosts, How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people? **5** You have fed them with the **bread of tears**, And given them **tears to drink** in great measure. **6** You have made us a strife to our



neighbors, And **our enemies laugh among themselves**. 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved! 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. 9 You prepared room for it, And **caused it to take deep root**, And it filled the land. 10 The hills were covered with its shadow, And the mighty cedars with its boughs. 11 She sent out her boughs to the Sea, And her branches to the River. 12 **Why have You broken** down her hedges, So that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit? 13 The boar out of the woods uproots it, And the wild beast of the field devours it. 14 Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, And **visit this vine** 15 And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, And the branch that You made strong for Yourself. 16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance. **17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand**, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. 18 Then we will not turn back from You; **Revive us**, and we will call upon Your name. 19 **Restore us**, O Lord God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

- **Asaph:** Descendant of Asaph. **Another "too late" Psalm**
- God as Shepherd/Vinedresser of Israel

Before 721 BC. Northern Kingdom not yet in Exile...But Assyria but coming Israel disregarded God's warning against Idolatry. Time has come for Judgment

- **V1-3 God as the Shepherd of Israel/Israel as Sheep**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Save us</b>     | Stop the enemy     |
| 2. <b>Restore us</b>  | Be our strength    |
| 3. <b>Shine on us</b> | Lead us in the way |

- **V4-7 Shepherd us as before...**

1. **Bread from Heaven** now Bread of Tears
2. **Water from Rock** now Drink our own tears. Enemies laughing

- **Vv8-16 God as Vinedresser/Israel the Vineyard** once hedged in/Protected

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Brought from Egypt</b> | Redeemed/Saved           |
| 2. <b>Planted us in Land</b> | Take Root/Grow/Fill land |
| 3. <b>Protection Removed</b> | Allowed enemy to come in |

**Establish us as Before...Visit this Vine**

- **Vv17** Don't continue strengthening our enemy
- **Vv18 Words reveal the heart. Help us...**

**v18 ...THEN** we will not turn back from You  
Revive us **THEN** we will call upon Your Name

**Alas...Too Late.**

After many warnings Assyria is on the way down w/ropes and hooks

- **Q.** Why did it have to come to this for Israel?

- **A.** God said no. They said yes. Now it's too late
  1. **No Hope** for the Nation
  2. **Still Hope** for the Individual...

**Lamentations 3:22** [After Judah's Destruction 130 years later] Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

### **His Mercies are New Every Morning**