

The Book of PSALMS
Psalms 76 – 78
“A Song of Victory—Remember God—ISRAEL”

Psalm 76 – “A SONG OF GOD’S VICTORIOUS POWER!”

(v1-3) Our God is VICTORIOUS! (Salem is the ancient name of Jerusalem, meaning “*the habitation of peace*”)

> “*His Name is great in Israel*” – **The name of Jesus is great: (1) Peter proclaimed in Acts 4:12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (2) Paul declared in Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

> **ZION** - (*fortification*) - the city of David and the city of God. The meaning of the word Zion underwent a distinct progression in its usage throughout the Bible.

The first mention of Zion in the Bible is in 2 Sam 5:7: "David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David)." Zion, therefore, was the name of the ancient JEBUSITE fortress situated on the southeast hill of Jerusalem at the junction of the Kidron Valley and the Tyropoeon Valley. The name came to stand not only for the fortress but also for the hill on which the fortress stood. After David captured "the stronghold of Zion" by defeating the Jebusites, he called Zion "the City of David" (1 Kings 8:1; 1 Chron 11:5; 2 Chron 5:2).

When Solomon built the Temple on MOUNT MORIAH (a hill distinct and separate from Mount Zion), and moved the ark of the covenant there, the word Zion expanded in meaning to include also the Temple and the Temple area (Ps 2:6; 48:2,11-12; 132:13). It was only a short step until Zion was used as a name for the city of Jerusalem, the land of Judah, and the people of Israel as a whole (Isa 40:9; Jer 31:12). The prophet Zechariah spoke of the sons of Zion (Zech 9:13). By this time the word Zion had come to mean the entire nation of Israel.

The most important use of the word Zion is in a religious or theological sense. Zion is used figuratively of Israel as the people of God (Isa 60:14). The spiritual meaning of Zion is continued in the New Testament, where it is given the Christian meaning of God's spiritual kingdom, the church of God, the heavenly Jerusalem (**Hebrews 12:22-24** - *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.* Also **Rev 14:1**). (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v4-6) Our God is GLORIOUS! (Here's a precious promise for all believers - Isaiah 54:17 - *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.*)

(v7-9) Our God is a DELIVERER! (Paul writes in Romans 11:25-27 - *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*)

(v10-12) Our God is AWESOME! (“*the wrath of man shall praise you*” - **2 Thessalonians Ch. 2**)

Psalm 77 – “REMEMBRANCE”

This Psalm reveals a deep soul searching, because of the perplexity of life. Faith has its problems, but faith can find the solution through the Word of God and prayer.

(v1-3) God hears our prayers

(v4-6) Remembrance and search of God

(v7-15) Questions about God are answered by His past dealings and promises

(v16-20) Remember the power of God at the Red Sea (Read Exodus 14

Psalm 78 – “ISRAEL”

In this Psalm we see the history of Israel from Moses to David. C.H. Spurgeon writes, “This Psalm is not a mere review of important events in Israel’s history, but it is intended to be seen as parable showing the conduct and experience of believers in all ages. It is a singular proof of the obtuseness of believers who object to sermons and expositions on the historical sections of Scripture, as if they contained no instruction in spiritual matters. Were these people truly enlightened by the Spirit of God, they would perceive that all Scripture is profitable, and they would blush at their folly in undervaluing any portion of the inspired volume.”

(v1-4) Listen to God’s law, words, parables (Matthew 13:34-35), history; then tell them to future generations.

(v5-8) God’s testimony through Israel.

(v9-32) In spite of this (all of God’s blessings) they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works. (In verses 9-10, God took note that Ephraim did not go to battle. As Christians are we involved in the battle? Paul exhorts us in 2 Tim 2:3-4- *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 1 Tim 6:6-12- Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 2 Tim 4:7-8- I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.)*

(v33-39) God’s discipline and compassion.

(v40-55) From Egypt through the wilderness they experienced the power of God, but they did not remember.

(v56-64) Israel tested and provoked God with their rebellion and idolatry.

(v65-72) God’s faithfulness to Israel and He gives them a good King, David.