



**Do We Ever Truly Learn from the Past?
Learning Something That Jesus Would Want All of His Church to Know Today!
Psalm 78 Part 2**

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Asaph is in the middle of teaching his people, and us, that as a whole, we do not learn from history. Once we come to Christ, we begin to learn, but before then, not so much.

The big issue he saw was that of the nation there at the time of David, they had gone through much of what is in Judges simply because they did not bother to learn from history and this is not a new thing for them, or for us either, the roots go back to the exodus. In the first 20 verse of this psalm, he has indeed covered the exodus as well as the lack of obedience due to a lack of remembering.



Let's take one more look at the first 20 verses.

Psalm 78:title–20

“A Maskil of Asaph. Listen, my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will tell riddles of old, Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, But we will tell the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His power and His wondrous works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they were to teach them to their children, So that the generation to come would know, the children yet to be born, That they would arise and tell them to their children, So that they would put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But comply with His commandments, And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God. The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows, Yet they turned back on the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God And refused to walk in His Law; They forgot His deeds And His miracles that He had shown them. He performed wonders before their fathers In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, And He made the waters stand up like a heap. Then He led them with the cloud by day And all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the wilderness And gave them plenty to drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams from the rock And made waters run down like rivers. Yet they still continued to sin against Him, To rebel against the Most High in the desert. And in their heart they put God to the test By asking for food that suited their taste. Then they spoke against God; They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? “Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing; Can He also provide bread? Will He prepare meat for His people?”” (NASB 2020)

We ended with the nation, having seen all that God had done for them, failing to remember even what He did just a few months ago, and now they are questioning His intent and promise of provision. What we see next is God's response, and based on the unbelief being reflected by a people who went out of their way to ignore God, I do understand what God tells them here.

Psalm 78:21–22

“Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath; And a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also mounted against Israel, Because they did not believe in God And did not trust in His salvation.” (NASB 2020)

We see in these two verses, God's response to the unfaithfulness of His own people. God heard what the people said to Moses, and more than once He related to Moses that He wanted to judge the people, but Moses would intercede on the behalf of the nation. This is a picture of what Jesus Christ does for us. The amazing thing, what we see next is not wrath, but grace.

Psalm 78:23–29

“Yet He commanded the clouds above And opened the doors of heaven; He rained down manna upon them to eat, And gave them food from heaven. Man ate the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance. He made the east wind blow in the sky And by His power He directed the south wind. When He rained meat upon them like the dust, Even winged fowl like the sand of the seas, He let them fall in the midst of their camp, All around their dwellings. So they ate and were well filled, And He satisfied their longing.” (NASB 2020)

Asaph is summarizing what took place in the wilderness. First with the beginning of the provision of food in the form of manna.

For those who want to know what manna is, the words itself in the Hebrew means “what is it.” God provided for the food needs and the nutritional needs of the nation during the entire time they are in the



wilderness. But the nation was not exactly learning about the God they said they were serving. Manna wasn't enough, they began to beg for meat. The reality, "Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased." (Numbers 11:10, ESV) Unbelief, once again.

Asaph said they had food in abundance and then He also supplied meat. God was not happy about the crying for meat. It was unbelief and a longing to return to the old life. His response was, interesting to say the least.

Numbers 11:18–20

"And say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore **the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"**' " (ESV)

We see something take place here that will indeed show up in the scriptures over and over again. God is intensely angry with the nation for their lack of obedience and their unbelief as it pertains to food. He said He would take care of them, and he has already done so up to this point multiple times and they just do not put A and B together to understand to just trust and obey.

God, in His grace, gives them meat. God in His wrath, gives them meat. Say what? God is giving the people exactly what they asked for. He will do that again and again in their history and here is the really bad news for you and me, if we insist on running off and doing our own thing, He will do the same thing for us to. "You want to be miserable over there in disobedience, go for it."

The classic example is the parable of the prodigal son that Jesus told. It is a story of a son of the Father, wanting what they shouldn't want when they wanted it ignoring the provision of the Father. The Father knew what they would do with it, but He gave it to them anyway.

The picture is one of a family relationship that has already been established and a loving Father who provides for His children. But for one of them, that wasn't enough, He wanted it all right now. So, the Father gave him what he wanted.

Luke 15:11–24

"Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. After a few days, the younger son gathered together all he had and left on a journey to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth with a wild lifestyle. Then after he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and worked for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He was longing to eat the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired workers have food enough to spare, but here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go to my father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired workers." ' So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way from home his father saw him, and his heart went out to him; he ran and hugged his son and kissed him. **Then his son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'** But the father said to his slaves, 'Hurry! Bring the best robe, and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Bring the fattened calf and kill it! Let us eat and celebrate, because this son of mine was dead, and is alive again—he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate." (NET 2nd ed.)



In the summary here from Asaph, God gives the nation what they wanted, and that is part of the lesson.

This reminds me of another story, not Biblical but in the same vein. There was a Pastor who loved to play golf but on Sunday, he faithfully taught the word rather than playing golf. After a couple of weeks of rain and unusable Saturday tee times, Sunday morning arrived and it was clear and beautiful, so he called the assistant pastor to cover for him saying he was ill and instead went off to the golf course.

There was no issue getting a tee time, there was literally no one else on the course because of the fear of more rain. We pick him up at the first tee with the Lord and Gabriel watching him play. Of course, Gabriel is wanting to know what lesson the Lord will be teaching him.

The Lord tells Gabriel to just watch.

The prodigal pastor tees off and hits a beautiful drive down the fairway is on the green in two and sinks the put for a birdie. He had never done that ever before. Of course, Gabriel looks at the Lord and the Lord says, "just keep watching."

The next hole is a short par 3 hole. Our prodigal pastor tees up the ball and hits a beautiful drive that lands right on the green and rolls into the cup. A hole in one. Well, it was at that point Gabriel asked the Lord, he is having his best round ever here on Sunday when he should be teaching the word. How is this teaching him a lesson. The Lord looked at Gabriel and asked one question, "who's he going to be able to tell this to?"

There are indeed those times, in order to teach us a lesson, that God will give us, even the believer as in the case of the prodigal son, what they want in order to teach them a lesson they would never learn otherwise. That is what He did with the nation in the wilderness.

We begin getting the "rest of the story" in verse 30. Those who were unfaithful, who did not learn from the times God had already shown up.

We also have evidence before us, just as the nation did. We have, every day, a choice based on what we know. Do we live today for self and the world, or do we continue to trust the Lord and live for Him. George Horne states it this way. "The blessings chosen for us by God are blessings indeed, and, like the manna, bring no sorrow with them: but when we choose for ourselves, and are so unhappy as to be gratified in that choice, our portion too often proves a curse; and, while the much-loved morsel is yet between our teeth, "the wrath of God comes upon us," for making a wrong choice. This will always be the case in the end, whenever earth is preferred to heaven, and sense to faith." (Horne 1856, 280)

So, a decision every day. The Lord asks us, "do you trust me in this?"

Why is it there are those times where we feel distant from the Lord, it could be, that we have piled a few decisions back-to-back where we exercised our lordship over the matter in substitution for the one who is truly Lord over all. Jesus Christ really does have a plan for us no matter how Satan lies to you and me to challenge us on that.

Psalms 78:30-33

"Yet before they had abandoned their longing, While their food was in their mouths, The anger of God rose against them And killed some of their strongest ones, And subdued the choice men of Israel. In spite of all this they still sinned And did not believe in His wonderful works. So He brought their days to an end in futility, And their years to an end in sudden terror." (NASB 2020)



The real heartbreak though is reflected in this verse. God provided for His people, even giving them what they want and doing so in judgment because of how they went about belly aching over what they wanted. Some paid a very high price for their disobedience.

Why would God judge His people this way? It was their choice. He gave them what they wanted. Rather than pray and ask the Lord for meat, or have Moses ask on their behalf. They chose the flesh and the world. The follower of Jesus Christ who turns from the Lord and makes that choice, and there are many who do, are under the discipline of God until they return. For the prodigal, he finally came to his senses while starving to death in a pig pen. And the Father ran to him as soon as he returned home.

Our Lord is waiting for us to return home as well. That is what is behind discipline from the Lord.

Psalms 78:34–39

“When He killed them, then they sought Him, And they returned and searched diligently for God; And they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. But they flattered Him with their mouth And lied to Him with their tongue. For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, Nor were they faithful with His covenant. **But He, being compassionate, forgave their wrongdoing and did not destroy them; And often He restrained His anger And did not stir up all His wrath. So He remembered that they were only flesh, A wind that passes and does not return.”** (NASB 2020)

You would think that what they saw at Mount Sinai would have taught them a lesson. You would have thought the provision of water for the nation as well. But no, there were some in the group who complained as there were no fast-food joints out in the wilderness like there had been back in Egypt. The ring leaders for the group soon managed to convince many others and here we are.

Numbers 11:31–33

“Then a wind from the LORD sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and a day’s journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground. **And the people rose all that day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail. Those who gathered least gathered ten homers.** And they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague.” (ESV)

Discipline most likely started with the ring leaders. And yes, those who survived sought Him. But did they really?

Proverbs 3:12

“For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, Just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.” (NASB 2020)

Hebrews 12:7–11

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. **For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”** (ESV)



The purpose of discipline is not just to have us repent of the sin that got us to this point, but it is to also learn and turn away from it. Asking the Lord to forgive you and then turning right around and resisting the Holy Spirit to go and commit the sin again is the not learning from history thing Asaph is talking about.

There is something here in the text of verse 34 that tells us, this is not the first time the people have required discipline, and rather severe to boot, and it will not be the last time either.

Psalm 78:34

“When He killed them, then they sought Him, And they returned and searched diligently for God;” (NASB 2020)

Christopher Ash also sees this in the language used as well. He tells us “This is expressed in a way that suggests a repeated pattern. Again and again, human mortality prompts some kind of seeking after God. Indeed, this may look as if it is done earnestly. They have heard about the covenant God being a rock and redeemer. In the face of death, they turn to him—or so it appears.” (Ash 2024, 362)

Psalm 78:35–36

“And they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. But they flattered Him with their mouth And lied to Him with their tongue.” (NASB 2020)

There is a point here for as well.

When we find ourselves in a trial or even being disciplined by the Lord resulting in the trial, there is a temptation. The temptation is to do lip service to repenting because the heart, which is busy lying to us, just want this to end. If this is a trial, totally understandable, keep trusting and keep relying on the Lord. He is indeed our rock and redeemer and He will indeed rescue.

But if this discipline is due to sin, the flesh also wants the pain to end, but the flesh also, deep down inside of us, is not quite ready to give up that sin yet.

There are those times, when counselling someone who is looking for benevolence, assistance in some way or another, where the right answer, per the Holy Spirit, is not to help at all. I have listened to all kinds of stories as to what happened and how they wound up in the situation, they want relief from it. But the common factor I have seen is there is some sin that got them there in the first place. I have had the Holy Spirit indicate to me that the person first needs to repent of the sin they are in and I have never had anyone willing to do that.

“If you don’t help me, then I may have to sleep under the I95 bridge tonight.”

There are indeed times, where the Spirit says, then try that and see how long you enjoy it until you truly repent. The prodigal son all over again. The Lord wants to see someone come to their senses first, just as in the parable, and then the Lord steps in.

When you tell someone that, they either curse you out, or they start the God talk trying to pull on the emotions. Asaph says the nation did that.

Psalm 78:36

“But they flattered Him with their mouth And lied to Him with their tongue.” (NASB 2020)

I’ve heard that too. Lord, if you will just do this for me then I will serve you forever. Lord, if you will do this then I will become a missionary, and on and on and on. You cannot negotiate with God. Asaph is pretty clear here. They flattered God; how do you even come to the place where you think you can do that? They



used God talk and flowing glowing words as many do in religion today. All designed to make everyone around you think you are indeed following and serving, but God sees the heart. Liar.

Sorry, hail Mary's and penitence will not cut it. Only 1 John 1:9 does.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (ESV)

There is a conversation that you need to have with the Lord first and it does not involve flattery. He is God, He made everything. The problem with the nation is the same problem I have seen as well. Satan deceives us to think we are okay with lip service, we make a good show, but the heart, hundreds of miles away doing other things.

The nation thought they could deceive God, most of our culture believes that as well or they have decided what He said is not as important as what they feel.

Psalms 78:37–39

"For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, Nor were they faithful with His covenant. But He, being compassionate, forgave their wrongdoing and did not destroy them; And often He restrained His anger And did not stir up all His wrath. So He remembered that they were only flesh, A wind that passes and does not return." (NASB 2020)

They were not sorry for their sin, nor did they truly repent of it, their sorry they got caught. Next time we'll be more cautious, so God won't know. If you think that way, I have one attribute of God to wrap your head around, omniscience.

No hiding, no deceiving, no spinning, no flattery. A repentant heart is sorry for the sin and desperately never wants to go back there ever again. A repentant heart recognizes the sin and confesses it and turns from it. A repentant heart is hurt by how badly their sin has hurt everyone else around them. But per Asaph, the nation was not steadfast towards the Lord. They did not learn from the past, they did not consider who He is, and they treated God no differently than they would treat their neighbor. Asaph is addressing this early in their history. The nation did not learn. Jeremiah made that very clear just prior to exile.

Jeremiah 3:10

"Yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception," declares the LORD." (NASB 2020)

The lack of faithfulness to the Lord shows us the true condition of the heart of most of the nation. Per John Goldingay, "What Yhwh looked for was that they should treat Yhwh as their God; that was what they failed to do in not consistently seeking help from Yhwh or turning to Yhwh or searching for Yhwh. There is a semantic and a substantial link between this failure to be true to God ('āman niphal, vv. 8, 37) and their failure to have faith in God and God's wonders ('āman hiphil, vv. 22, 32). (Goldingay 2006, 499-500)

We look at this and tend to say I would never do that. I would never give my gold for a calf today and then for the Lord tomorrow. It would always be for the Lord. Really? What do we spend our money on?

I talk with those who love the Lord and are very careful with what they do, yet they subscribe to known purveyors of anti-god media.



Faithfulness is a constant struggle for all of us in the culture today. We live in the world, but we are not to be of the world. The world, which is totally lost, always will operate in the darkness and every so often make it look like the light. But these days, where we are with the rapture so close, it is beginning to be dark all the time. We must be wise and not complain about the world being the world but rather keep ourselves from being stained by the world.

It is incredibly difficult to have a discussion with someone about their need for the Lord right after you have condemned them for being the pagan that they are. Jesus did not condemn the Samaritan woman at the well. He could have, instead He just kept redirecting the conversation to stay on the topic He wanted to discuss, her need for salvation. All he did was tell her the truth and state facts.

Here is the thing, most of the nation were saying one thing but doing another. They were hypocrites playing the religious game with no reality in it. Even though God told Moses they deserved it, He did not destroy the people and start over.

Psalms 78:38–39

“But He, being compassionate, forgave their wrongdoing and did not destroy them; And often He restrained His anger And did not stir up all His wrath. So He remembered that they were only flesh, A wind that passes and does not return.” (NASB 2020)

Here is the truth of the situation, God loved them. As Spurgeon puts it, “though they were full of flattery, he was full of mercy, and for this cause he had pity on them. Not because of their pitiful and hypocritical pretensions to penitence, but because of his own real compassion for them he overlooked their provocations.” (Spurgeon n.d., 339)

We, as humans, struggle with forgiveness like that. Some of us still struggle with how the Lord could even forgive us. Paul though gives us the real reason.

Romans 5:6–9

“For while we were still weak, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly**. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (ESV)

Romans 9:22–24

“But what if God, willing to demonstrate his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath prepared for destruction? And what if he is willing to make known the wealth of his glory on the objects of mercy that he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us, whom he has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?” (NET 2nd ed.)

Why the compassion from God? Then as well as now? His grace first of all, and His desire to see all come to salvation, yet He also knows, that not all will come to salvation. That was the case then and is the same now. But when someone poopos the pretribulation rapture.

2 Peter 3:3–9

“knowing this first: that **scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as



one day. **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**" (NKJV)

Once again, just as Asaph is writing about, a failure to learn from history. A failure to learn from the attributes and character of who God is. That He is holy and just and desires all to be saved yet His holiness and justice also means that those who do not accept His provision for their sin, are doomed.

The realization by Asaph here is something that reflects the love of our creator and His grace as well. He knows we are flesh, fallen and extremely limited due to the sin nature. He. Knows that unless we are Spirit filled and Spirit led, we are prone to make really bad decisions.

This is reflected also in what Paul had to say about temptations to return to a worldly lifestyle after we have come to know the Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (NKJV)

Psalms 78:40–41

"How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness And grieved Him in the desert! Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel." (NASB 2020)

One of the ways that we know the Bible contains truth in it is simple. If you were overseeing the aggregation of a series of books that provided the history of your people, would you leave it as the unvarnished truth or would you try and spin the really bad stuff.

This is the problem every historian has when they begin their research and begin to interpret what they see.

I usually opt for the unvarnished truth. But there are those who want to try and explain why someone was so evil, or so stupid, or so incredibly wrong. Me, I have found that facts, appropriately presented, speak much better and provide a much clearer picture without my crazy ideas getting the way.

Asaph doesn't count but he does make reference to all of the failures of the nation in the wilderness. And they are all there in living color.

Did this end in the wilderness, not hardly. Ezekiel was called by God to be a prophet to the nation in exile in Babylon.

Ezekiel 2:3–5

"And He said to me: 'Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.'" (NKJV)

This is why the 70th week of Danile is to take place. It is to deal with the rebels.



Zechariah 13:8–9

“It will happen in all the land”, says the LORD, “that two-thirds of the people in it will be cut off and die, but one-third will be left in it. Then I will bring the remaining third into the fire; I will refine them like silver is refined and will test them like gold is tested. They will call on my name and I will answer; I will say, ‘These are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’” (NET 2nd ed.)

Zechariah is writing about the events taking place at the very end of the Great Tribulation. He is writing about the moment that the remnant, those who remain, as one, pray for Messiah to come and save them. And He does.

Hosea 5:15

“Then I will return again to my lair until they have suffered their punishment. Then they will seek me; in their distress they will earnestly seek me.” (NET 2nd ed.)

They grieved Him in the wilderness, both prior to rejecting to enter the land, as well as after. I make the distinction solely because for all those over 20, when the rejection took place, it began a death watch and the entire generation over the age of 20 except for Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness.

Psalms 78:41

“Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.” (NASB 2020)

They did what? How in the world would you even do that? Can that even be a thing? Yes, that is indeed a thing and folks are doing that all across the planet every single day. In fact, most of the west has gotten quite good at it.

Tempting God means challenging Him, putting Him on trial, subjecting Him to human reasoning all while at the same time expecting Him to continue to bless no matter what.

It is evident in churches who stray from the word of God to teach other things which in essence, propose a different Jesus. Prosperity gospel would be one of these. The Progressive Church, those who push a New Apostolic Reformation agenda or those mainstream denominations that have totally rejected God’s word in favor of inclusion, and LGBTQ; and yet all of them continue to believe God will bless their church and their ministry. That is tempting God. That is a seriously presumptive sin.

Here in our nation, we are arguing back and forth about the worship of Molech, known in the culture as woman’s reproductive health, also known as abortion. If you have been involved in abortion, Jesus Christ does indeed forgive and save. But it seems in our culture at present, the discussion is not only about abortion, but there are those now advocating for the mothers right to do away with their child even after birth. And yet, we still ask God to bless us?

There are also those who go out of their way to tempt God in this are those who practice performing abortion blessings.

For example, in a 2024 article in The Christian Century, we learn that “the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a multifaith organization that advocates for safe and legal abortion access, provides spiritual companionship through abortions, trains faith leaders and activists, and more.” In other words, this is an organization that is using the name of the church and Jesus Christ to endorse abortion. Yes, this is a serious definition of one who tempts God. (Burns 2024)

In several states in our nation, as well as in Canada and several other nations, there is now physician assisted suicide. In other words, euthanasia. In Canada, where this is now the leading cause of death, it appears the Anglican Church has fallen in line with the culture.



The Anglican Church of Canada launched a “liturgy” for clergy to use with those who choose to die by medically-assisted suicide. The “rite” includes confession and absolution for those intending to take their lives. The church’s General Synod adopted “Pastoral Liturgies at the Time of Death in Contexts of Medically-Assisted Dying” in June 2026. (Daily Citizen 2026)

This too would fall in the category of tempting God. Tempting God is not something you fall into, it is deliberate and presumptive, and Satan would love more than nothing than to lead us into this. Jesus dealt with this one on one with Satan.

Luke 4:9–12

“And he brought Him into Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written: ‘HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS ORDERS CONCERNING YOU, TO PROTECT YOU,’ and, ‘ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL LIFT YOU UP, SO THAT YOU DO NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ” **And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been stated, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”**” (NASB 2020)

Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16, and when Moses wrote that, he was pointing to a specific event at Massah which we read about in Exodus.

The background is the nation has arrived at Rephidim on their way to Mount Sinai. There was not water to drink and the people were angry with and quarreled with Moses. But there was more to it. God’s solution.

Exodus 17:5–7

“And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”**” (ESV)

Psalms 78:42

“They did not remember His power, The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,” (NASB 2020)

They had forgotten everything that God had done for them. They were eyewitnesses but they did not tell the next generation. Derek Kidner adds this, “Here is the crux of the matter (cf. verse 7), for if redemption itself is forgotten (in Israel’s case, the exodus; in ours, the cross and resurrection), faith and love will not last long.” (Kidner 1975, 314)

And that is what we see all around us in the culture today. Boice tells us the result of this level of unbelief. “If we forget what it cost God to redeem us from our sins through Jesus’ death, we will not long trust him in life’s trials or love him enough to obey him in times of temptation. The cure is to remember, which is what this psalm is about. We need to remember all that God has done.” (Boice 2005, 649)

Let’s pray.



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