

“LEST WE FORGET”

PSALM 78:1-8

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INTRODUCTION

It is easy to forget the goodness, grace, power, and blessings of God when we are going through rough times.

It seems as though believers often have selective memories. It is important for us to remember God’s great deeds on our behalf—especially the amazing salvation He has given us, and all the following blessings. Then it is important for us to pass on these truths to our children, and they to their children.

Such is the message of Psalm 78—the longest historical review among the psalms (cf. also Pss. 105-107).

- I. Listen intently to my authoritative instruction—law coming from my mouth. (1-2)
 - A. Listen—“my people” (1)
 - B. Incline your ears—make an effort at hearing well.
 - C. What I share are parables and “dark sayings” (2)
 1. He will make special points about events in Israel’s past history that will evaluate the lessons to be learned.
 2. God has performed amazing acts of salvation.
- II. We have heard about God’s amazing deeds and must pass on these truths (3-4)
 - A. We have heard and known (3)
 - B. Our fathers have told us (3)
 - C. Three terms depict such amazing deeds of God (4)
 1. “Praises”—by metonymy for the deeds that elicit such praise
 2. “Strength” for the means by which God has done what He has
 3. “Works of wonder”—powerful and amazing actions that lead to awe and amazement.
- III. We are responsible to pass these facts on to succeeding generations (4, 5, 6)

As we will see later, these deeds include the judgments upon the land of Egypt, the Exodus, crossing of the Red Sea, wilderness wanderings, entrance into the promised land, deliverance from their adversaries, and appointment of David as their ruler and Zion as the capital city—with the temple as their place of worship.

 - A. Don’t hide them from the “children” of our fathers (4)
 - B. Tell them to “the coming generation” (4)
 - C. “Teach them”—cause them to know—to their children (5).
 - D. The “children to be born”, “the coming generation” must know (6)
 - E. They must tell them to their children (6b).

See the following: Ex. 10:2; 12:26, 27; 13:8-10, 14-15; Dt. 4:9; 6:20-25. Especially see Dt. 6:4-
- IV. These mighty deeds prepare for and built around God’s covenant relationship and Law with His people (5).
 - A. He established a “testimony”—often used for 10 Commandments, ark, tabernacle
 - B. He appointed a “law”—authoritative teaching—cf. v. 1.
 - C. He commanded his people.
 - D. These laws, testimonies, along with the mighty works, must be taught to the children.
- V. The Results of the passing on of knowledge of God’s covenant, laws, and deeds to the children; they will:
 - A. Put their confidence in God. (7)
 - B. Not forget the works of God (7)
 - C. Keep God’s commandments (7)

VI. Lessons to be learned from the past failed “fathers” (8).

Moreover, the children must learn the lessons from the rebelliousness and disobedience of their “fathers, their ancestors who came out of the land of Egypt, and must not be like them. For these fathers:

- A. “Were Stubborn and rebellious”
- B. Did not “prepare their hearts”—set them right in order to seek and know God.
- C. Did not have a steadfast spirit with God.

CONCLUSION

How important it is for God’s people to pass on truth and the stories of God’s amazing saving acts to our children.

They also need a relationship with God and must rejoice in God’s amazing salvation.

They must also be aware of the failures of the past so as to be able to avoid such failures in the present.

The bottom line is that we believers and our children must:

- 1. Not be stubborn and rebellious.
- 2. Must have hearts that are prepared to seek God and know Him.
- 3. Must have a steadfast and faithful spirit with God.

Read Deut. 6:1-9; 20-25.