

PSALM 78

Listen O people, to My law be meek; stretch out your ears, to the words that I speak.

- 2 I'll ungird My mouth, with proverbs and rhymes; gush forth with hard questions, from the ancient times.
- 3 Those we have heard, and have seen from of old; those that unto us, our fathers have told.
- 4 Not hide from our sons, show Your praise to our heirs; the Lord's might and power, performed everywhere.
- 5 A witness in Jacob, for Israel laws; enjoining our fathers, to teach sons them all.
- 6 Known to generations, the sons still to come; who also would rise up, and teach to their sons.
- 7 To put hope in God, not forget His great deeds; and guard His commandments, to them all take heed.
- 8 Not like stubborn fathers, a rebellious brood; not right in their hearts, their spirit soon moved.
- 9 Even sons of Ephraim, outfitted with bows; retreated in battle, in days long ago.
- 10 They held not the compact, with God they had made; refusing to walk, in His precepts that day.
- 11 They forgot His exploits, mislaid all His acts; His marvelous works, they had seen without lack.
- 12 For their fathers saw, the great wonders He made; among the Egyptians, out in Zoan's plain.
- 13 Parting the sea, they walked through on dry ground; lifting the waters, to stand as a mound.
- 14 Daily He guided, with cloud far and wide; nightly His lightning, with fire did shine.
- 15 Rending the rocks, in the dry wilderness; quenching their thirst, from the earth's very depths.
- 16 Gushing from rocks, they flowed forth and swelled; even the waters, like great rivers fell.
- 17 With sin in their hearts, their rebellion still grew; out in the desert, against God so true.
- 18 They tempting God, in their hearts did entreat; that He would satisfy, their souls with meat.
- 19 Speaking in vain, they said "Is our God able; out in the desert, to fill up our table?"
- 20 Yes striking the rock, water gushed forth in streams; Can He give us bread, and the food that we need?"

- 21 The Lord heard their words, invoking His ire; in Israel anger rose, in Jacob a fire.
- 22 For they did not hope, in God or His ways; nor trusted in, His power to save.
- 23 Though He had sent them, clouds from on high; the portals of heaven, for them opened wide.
- 24 Dropping down manna, that fell as the rain; bestowing unto them, a heavenly grain.
- 25 Men dined on bread, the kind angels call; sending them food, to satisfy all.
- 26 A wind from the east, gushed across the broad sky; His strength the south wind, did channel and drive.
- 27 Again raining food, as the dust falling free; fine feathered quail, like the sands of the sea.
- 28 Dropped in the middle, of where their camp went; encircling the people, and God's mighty tent.
- 29 Devouring quickly, their hunger abated; that which they longed for, desire soon sated.
- 30 Barely done lusting, adulterously; with food in their mouths, that they tasted with glee;
- 31 God's mighty wrath, mounted and thrust; Israel's "choicest," fell down in the dust.
- 32 Despite all of this, still they sinned in their blunders; refusing to trust, in their God's mighty wonders.
- 33 Their days were all wasted, in empty vain stubble; the years turning 'bout, with destruction and trouble.
- 34 As they were slain, they sought for God's aid; turning so swiftly, to God in that day.
- 35 Though they still knew God, was their solid Stone; and it was He, could redeem them alone.
- 36 They flattered with deceit, their mouths made a show; their tongues speaking falsely, no truth in their souls.
- 37 Their hearts were not steadfast, in what they had heard; forgetting His compact, rejecting His Word.
- 38 Yet He in His mercy, did cover their sin; diverting His anger, again and again.
- 39 He knew they were flesh, simple sinew and skin; walking a short time, then away like the wind.
- 40 So often rebelling, from His tender graces; bringing displeasure, in desolate places.
- 41 Retreating in heart, there they tested their God; hurt Israel's Holy One, worthy of awe.
- 42 They forgot His hand, so mighty and great; the day when He rescued them, from their tight straits.
- 43 Working His signs, upon Egypt's domain; showing His wonders, in Zoan's wide plain.

- 44 Converting to blood, at the Nile River's brink; failing its streams, they no longer could drink.
- 45 Flies and mosquitos, swarmed at His command; frogs leapt from marshes, to mar all the land.
- 46 He gave their fine produce, unto the worm's power; all of their toils, could locusts devour.
- 47 Hail stones fell thickly, smote vines full of grapes; sycamore's fruit, was soon wasted away.
- 48 And likewise their cattle, surrendered to hail; their herds by the lightning, were scorched head to tail.
- 49 Burning hot anger, with fury and woe; allowed evil angels, their armies to go.
- 50 Anger on track, kept no soul from the grave; surrendered their lives, unto pestilent plague.
- 51 Struck down the firstborn, throughout Egypt's land; the principal sons, from the strong tents of Ham.
- 52 God's people marched forth, like the wandering sheep; led through the desert, His flock did He keep.
- 53 Guided in safety, with nothing to fear; while seas overcame, the dread foe at their rear.
- 54 To a sanctuary, His people were brought; unto the mountain, His right hand had bought.
- 55 Drove out the nations, gave inheritance; where Israel's tribes, could abide in their tents.
- 56 They rebelled and tested, the Almighty Lord; held not fast the witness, of His faithful Word.
- 57 They flinched with deceit, as their father's had lied; like a bow that is false, in their hearts turned aside.
- 58 Their high places vexed Him, with hearts proud and hard; making Him jealous, with idols they carved.
- 59 When God heard this, He was cross at their plans; spurning so swiftly, Israel's clans.
- 60 Rejecting His dwelling, (at Shiloh had been); the very tent, He had placed among men.
- 61 Gave up His strong people, an exiled land; His beautiful nation, into the foe's hand.
- 62 Surrendered His tribes, to the sword's vicious sting; angered so deeply, by heirs' evil deeds.
- 63 Flames ate the young men, where they abode; and nary a maiden, was ever betrothed.
- 64 Even the priests, fell unto the sword's power; nor could any widow, lament in that hour.
- 65 Then the Lord woke up, as from a nap time; as mighty men shout, when they're gladdened with wine.

- 66 He struck down His enemies, full from the rear; gave them to shame, from year unto year.
- 67 Refusing the tent, that Joseph had won; nor choosing a Scion from Ephraim (his son).
- 68 He selected a Branch, from Judah His own; beloved Mount Zion, His eternal home.
- 69 Building a palace, upon its great heights; settled forever, unto end of times.
- 70 Appointing His servant, David that day; took him from sheepfolds, where tender flocks graze.
- 71 From following ewes, suckling those in their care; a shepherd to Jacob, and Israel His heir.
- 72 He tended them all, with an innocent heart; guided with hands, wise and skilled in God's arts.