

## Psalm 78

4. <sup>8</sup>Not being as their fathers were,  
rebelling in God's sight,  
And would not frame their wicked hearts  
to know their God aright.  
<sup>9</sup>How went the people of Ephraim  
their neighbours for to spoil,  
Shooting their darts the day of war,  
and yet they took the soil?
5. <sup>10</sup>For why? They did not keep with God,  
the covenant that was made:  
Nor yet would walk or lead their lives,  
according to his trade.  
<sup>11</sup>But put into oblivion  
his counsel and his will,  
And all his works most magnific,<sup>34</sup>  
which he declared still.
6. <sup>12</sup>What wonders to our forefathers,  
did he himself disclose  
In Egypt land, within the field,  
that called is Taneos?<sup>35</sup>  
<sup>13</sup>He did divide and cut the sea,  
that they might pass at ones,  
And made the water stand as still,  
as doth an heap of stones.
7. <sup>14</sup>He led them secret in a cloud,  
by day when it was bright:  
And all the night, when dark it was,  
with fire he gave them light.  
<sup>15</sup>He brake the rocks in wilderness,  
and gave the people drink:  
As plentiful, as when the deeps,  
do flow up to the brink.
8. <sup>16</sup>He drew out rivers out of rocks,  
that were both dry and hard:  
Of such abundance that no floods  
to them might be compared.  
<sup>17</sup>Yet for all this, against the Lord,  
their sin they did increase:  
And stirred him that is most high,  
to wrath in wilderness.
9. <sup>18</sup>They tempted him within their hearts,  
like people of mistrust:  
Requiring such a kind of meat,  
as served to their lust.  
<sup>19</sup>Saying with murmuration<sup>36</sup>  
in their unfaithfulness:  
"What? Can this God prepare for us,  
a feast in wilderness?"
10. <sup>20</sup>Behold, he strake the stony rock,  
and floods forthwith did flow:  
But can he now give to his folk,  
both bread and flesh also?  
<sup>21</sup>When God heard this, he waxed wroth,  
with Jacob and his seed:  
So did his indignation,  
on Israel proceed.
11. <sup>22</sup>Because they did not faithfully  
believe and hope that he:  
Could always help and succour them,  
in their necessity.  
<sup>23</sup>Wherefore he did command the clouds:  
forthwith they brake in sunder:  
<sup>24</sup>And rained down man' for them to eat,  
a food of mikel<sup>37</sup> wonder.
12. <sup>25</sup>When earthly men with angels' food,  
were fed at their request,  
<sup>26</sup>He bade the east wind blow away,  
and brought in the southwest,  
<sup>27</sup>And rained down flesh as thick as dust,  
and fowl as thick as sand:  
<sup>28</sup>Which he did cast amidst the place,  
where all their tents did stand.
13. <sup>29</sup>Then did they eat exceedingly,  
and all men had their fills:  
Yet more and more they did desire,  
to serve their lusts and wills.  
<sup>30</sup>But as the meat was in their mouths,  
his wrath upon them fell,  
<sup>31</sup>And slew the flower of all the youth,  
and choice of Israel.

---

<sup>34</sup> Magnificent.

<sup>35</sup> Also Zoan.

<sup>36</sup> Murmuring.

<sup>37</sup> Much.

14. <sup>32</sup>Yet fell they to their wonted sin,  
and still they did him grieve:  
For all the wonders that he wrought,  
they would him not believe.  
<sup>33</sup>Their days therefore he shortened,  
and made their honour vain:  
Their years did waste and pass away,  
with terror and with pain.
15. <sup>34</sup>But ever when he plagued them,  
they fought him by and by:  
<sup>35</sup>Remembering then he was their strength,  
their help and God most high.  
<sup>36</sup>Though in their mouths they did but gloss  
and flatter with the Lord:  
And with their tongues, and in their hearts  
dissembled every word.
16. <sup>37</sup>For why? Their hearts were nothing bent  
to him, nor to his trade,  
Nor yet to keep, or to perform  
the covenant that was made.  
<sup>38</sup>Yet was he still so merciful,  
when they deserved to die,  
That he forgave them their misdeeds,  
and would not them destroy.
17. Yea, many a time he turned his wrath,  
and did himself advise,<sup>38</sup>  
And would not suffer all his whole  
displeasure to arise,  
<sup>39</sup>Considering that they were but flesh,  
and even as a wind,  
That passeth away, and cannot well  
return by his own kind.
18. <sup>40</sup>How often times in wilderness,  
did they their Lord provoke?  
How did they move and stir their Lord,  
to plague them with his stroke?  
<sup>41</sup>Yet did they turn again to sin,  
and tempted God eftso<sup>39</sup>:  
Prescribing to the holy Lord,  
what things they would have done.
19. <sup>42</sup>Not thinking of his hand and power,  
nor of the day, when he  
Delivered them out of the bonds,  
of the fierce enemy.  
<sup>43</sup>Nor now he wrought his miracles,  
as they themselves beheld,  
In Egypt, and the wonders that  
he did in Zoan field.
20. <sup>44</sup>Nr how he turned by his power  
their waters into blood,  
That no man might receive his drink,  
at river nor at flood.  
<sup>45</sup>Nor how he sent them swarms of flies  
which did them sore annoy,  
And filled their country full of frogs  
which should their land destroy.
21. <sup>46</sup>Nor how he did commit their fruits  
unto the caterpillar:  
And all the labour of their hands  
he gave to the grasshopper.  
<sup>47</sup>With hailstones he destroyed their vines,  
so that they were all lost:  
And not so much as wild fig trees,  
but he consumed with frost.
22. <sup>48</sup>And yet with hailstones once again,  
the Lord their cattle smote:  
And all their flocks and herds likewise,  
with thunderbolts full hot.  
<sup>49</sup>He cast upon them in his ire,  
and in his fury strong,  
Displeasure, wrath and evil spirits,  
to trouble them among.
23. <sup>50</sup>The to his wrath he made away,  
and spared not the least:  
But gave unto the pestilence,  
the man and eke the beast.  
<sup>51</sup>He strake also the firstborn all,  
that up in Egypt came:  
And all the chief of men and beasts  
within the tents of Ham.

---

<sup>38</sup> To bethink (oneself) carefully.

<sup>39</sup> Soon, or afterwards.

24. <sup>52</sup>But as for all his own dear folk,  
 he did preserve and keep,  
 And carried them through wilderness,  
 even like a flock of sheep.  
<sup>53</sup>Without all fear both safe and sound,  
 he brought them out of thrall:  
 Whereas their foes with rage of sea,  
 were overwhelmed all:
25. <sup>54</sup>And brought them out into the coasts,  
 of his own holy land:  
 Even to the mount which he had got  
 by his strong arm and hand.  
<sup>55</sup>And there cast out the heathen folk,  
 and did their land divid:  
 And in their tents he set the tribes,  
 of Israel to abide.
26. <sup>56</sup>Yet for all this, their God most high,  
 they stirred and tempted still:  
 And would not keep his testament,  
 nor yet obey his will.  
<sup>57</sup>But as their fathers turned back,  
 even so they went astray:  
 Much like a bow that would not bend,  
 but slipped and start away.
27. <sup>58</sup>And grieved him with their hill altars,  
 with offerings and with fire:  
 And with their idols, vehemently  
 provoked him to ire.  
<sup>59</sup>Therewith his wrath began again  
 to kindle in his breast:  
 The naughtiness of Israel  
 he did so much detest.
28. <sup>60</sup>Then he forsook the tabernacle  
 of Shiloh, where he was  
 right conversant with earthlymen,  
 even as his dwelling place.  
<sup>61</sup>Then suffered he his might and power,  
 in bondage for to stand:  
 And gave the honour of his ark,  
 into his enemy's hand.
29. <sup>62</sup>And did commit them to the sword,  
 wroth with his heritage:  
<sup>63</sup>The young men were devoured with fire:  
 maids had no marriage,  
<sup>64</sup>And with the sword the priests also,  
 did perish every one:  
 And not a widow left alive  
 their death for to bemoan.
30. <sup>65</sup>And then the Lord began to wake,  
 like one that slept a time:  
 Or like a valiant man of war,  
 refreshed after wine.  
<sup>66</sup>With hemorrhoids in the hinder parts,  
 he strake his enemies all:  
 And put them then unto shame,  
 that was perpetual.
31. <sup>67</sup>Then he the tent and tabernacle,  
 of Joseph did refuse:  
 As for the tribe of Ephraim,  
 he would in no wise choose.  
<sup>68</sup>But chose the tribe of Jehudah,<sup>40</sup>  
 whereas he thought to dwell:  
 Even the noble mount Zion,  
 which he did love so well.
32. <sup>69</sup>Where as he did his temple build,  
 both sumptuously and sure:  
 Like as the earth which he hath made  
 forever to endure.  
<sup>70</sup>Then chose he David him to serve,  
 his people for to keep,  
 Which he took up and brought away,  
 even from the folds of sheep.
33. <sup>71</sup>As he did follow th'ewes with young,  
 the Lord did him advance,  
 To feed his people of Israel,  
 and his inheritance.  
<sup>72</sup>Then David with a faithful heart  
 his flock and charge did feed:  
 And prudently with all his power,  
 did govern them indeed.

---

<sup>40</sup> Epenthesis is used here to fill the metre. The real word is Judah.