

**Scripture: Psalm 78:1-25; 35-37**

**Notes:** This Psalm records God's dealings with the Hebrew children during their time in the wilderness. This Psalm reminds us to learn from the past and not repeat the same mistakes. It also shows us the importance of sharing God with the next generation.

**I. Our responsibility to proclaim God to our world.**

**1. Elders must teach the next generation how God has blessed them. 4; 13-15;24-25a** *We will not hide them from their children, Shewing to the generation to come The praises of the LORD, and his strength, And his wonderful works that he hath done.....He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; And he made the waters to stand as an heap. In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, And all the night with a light of fire. He clave the rocks in the wilderness, And gave them drink as out of the great depths... And had rained down manna upon them to eat, And had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food.* The great testimony for the miracles God had performed in delivering them from Egypt. They were reminded of the manna sent from heaven to feed them. What are the blessings we can share with the world today. Man has a few basic questions about life; how did it start? Why are we here? How does it all end? The truth is God created all things; through Jesus he has redeemed all things and believers have a glorious future through our relationship with Jesus. We are entrusted to share the gospel. **Romans 1:15-17** *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.* Paul knew that his message was the greatest news the world had ever known. God had intervened in the affairs of man and provided a Savior. Belief in or faith in this news was the way for anybody to receive eternal life. The power to change lives begins when we believe the truth about Jesus. **John 1:12** *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name* When I receive the Son I become a son. As a son I receive the Holy Spirit who confirms within my mind the presence of God in my life, a guide in my understanding of the Bible, and is discerner of spiritual truths.

**2. We must not forget the importance of maintaining our relationship with God. 7-8** *That they might set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation; A generation that set not their heart aright, And whose spirit was not stedfast with God* In spite of all the blessings the Hebrews in the wilderness did not obey God's commands. The wilderness journey was filled with complaints and judgments. If we truly want a relationship with God we must set our hope on Him, maintain an attitude of gratitude, and obey the Bible.

**A. God can never do enough to satisfy the rebellious heart. (16-19)** *He brought streams also out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers. And they sinned yet more against him By provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart By asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed; Can he give bread also? Can he provide flesh for his people?* These folks hearts were not right with God. No matter what he did it was never enough. He provided water from a rock and they wanted to know if he could improve on the menu of manna by providing meat. This is similar to someone being rescued from the desert given water but complaining about bread being served instead of steak. Even in the dispensation of grace God never does enough. Man acts as if God owes us something and has no right to tell us what to do. These Hebrews are especially bad because

they know God provided the water. Next, is that all you have to give me. Man does this even today; isn't this like the welfare generation in our country.

**3. We must honestly evaluate our relationship with God. (35-37)** *And they remembered that God was their rock, And the high God their redeemer. Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, And they lied unto him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with him, Neither were they stedfast in his covenant.* Make sure you are not like one the sons in the parable of the sons in **Matthew 21:28-32** *But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.* Too many folks vote for God and his teachings in the Bible but don't practice them in their lives. They are spiritual in church on Sunday maybe amen the preacher but they have no intention of changing how they are living. The book of Revelation list seven churches and one way to interpret those churches is chronologically. Each church represents a church age. The first church, the church at Ephesus, also called the apostolic church, would have the advantage of sight as well as faith. Jesus gave them a warning. **Revelation 2:4-5** *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.* It helps to look inside to see where we are in our walk with Jesus. Jesus told them they have left their first love. You've forgotten what was like to be on fire for Christ. Prayer and bible reading has become a chore. You rationalize why it's ok to miss church instead of adjusting your schedule so you can attend. Jesus tells them if you don't repent I'll close the doors. What cause this is a spiritual disconnect between us and Christ.

**A. We become too familiar with the things of God.** People listen with the idea they already know what the teacher is going to teach, or they listen to a sermon believing they already know what the preacher is going to say. They don't know what the preacher is going to say. They especially don't know what God is going to say to them. They have lost their sense of awesomeness.

**B. People have let other things become more important than God.** God wants to have first place in our lives. Actually God is in a category all by himself. It is God who empowers us to love our wives and families the way God has designed it but it begins with our relationship with Jesus.

**C. Neglect Spiritual discipline.** When we neglect spiritual discipline we begin to drift away. Trouble with drifting is often you just drift with the current of the world and you become so much like the world that the things of God are but a memory. Then you can no longer share Christ with the world because you have no passion left to share Him.