PSALMS 78

REVIEW…

- **Psalm 75 – Turn to God**
  - Asaph was THANKFUL – because the name of God was NEAR…
  - But to those who do not CALL upon His name – there is JUDGEMENT…
  - He warned us not to BOAST – be HARD hearted – because salvation ONLY comes from God…
  - Considering the OPTIONS – salvation or condemnation – he chose to WORSHIP God!
- **Psalm 76 – Fighting the battle**
  - Judah – Israel – and Jerusalem are all KNOWN by the name of God…
  - Because of that – ANYONE who comes against them will end up fighting God…
  - In the END – everyone – everywhere will bow their KNEE to the LORD…
  - Therefore – now better to BOW and be KNOW by God – then later and be JUDGED by Him!
- **Psalm 77 – The Path of God**
  - Asaph continually cried out to God – because of

the DAY of TROUBLE…
- He had NO rest – he was up all night THINKING about his past – his MISTAKES…
- Until He remembered the LORD – and mediated upon His WORD…
- Then he recalled how God did MARVELOUS works – parting the Red Sea…
- And he realized God does NOT take away our problems – He takes us THROUGH them!

Psalm 78 – Learning from the past

- **1st – Remember the Word… vs. 1-11**
  - 1st – Introduction…
    - A Contemplation of Asaph!
      - The TENTH of THIRTEEN Psalms that have the title – a CONTEMPLATION…
      - CONTEMPLATION – root [שָׂכַל] – meaning to teach or give instructions [hiphil]
      - The SEVENTH of TWELVE Psalms that were written by Asaph…
      - ASAPH [אָסָף] – whose name means to GATHER…
      - Was the WORSHIP leader during the reign of King David – **I Chronicles 16:5-6**
    - Psalm 78 is the SECOND longest Psalm [only Psalm 119 is longer]
      - It is a HISTORICAL Psalm – the recounts the history of the nation of Israel…
      - It is an encouragement – for them NOT to repeat the mistakes of their PAST!
  - 2nd – Listen to the WORD… vs. 1-3
    - Give ear - O my people - to my law. Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
      - I will open my mouth in a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old.
      - Which we have heard and known - and our fathers have told us!
      - It seems like there was SOMETHING bad that had happened to Israel – defeat in Battle…
      - And they were trying to figure out what CAUSED [hiphil] them to LOSE!
    - Back to the WORD…
      - Speaking on behalf of the LORD – Asaph gives a simple command…
      - LISTEN [imperative] My people – to My LAW [תּוֹרָה] – the first FIVE books of the Bible…
      - Where God [cohortative] spoke in WISDOM [parables] – asking HARD questions [dark sayings]
      - Which Israel had HEARD – and KNEW [יָדַע] – because their FATHERS had told them!
      - When life FALLS apart – and we are WONDERING what went wrong…
      - The answer is as simple as – go BACK to the WORD of God…
      - Where we can find the WISDOM of God – and face the HARD questions we need to answer…
      - Not that we need to be TOLD this – we already KNOW it – we just need to DO it!
  - 3rd – Teach the Children… vs. 4-5
    - We will not hide them from *our* children - telling the generation to come the praises of the LORD.
      - And His strength and His wonderful 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 should make them known to their children!
      - Asaph encouraged Israel – to PASS on the WORD of the LORD to the next generation…
      - NEVER [piel] hide it – TELL [piel] the kids all about the WONDERS [פֶּלֶא] of God…
      - Because – God caused [hiphil] Jacob – who was NOT a nice man - to STAND up…
      - And gave the LAW [תּוֹרָה] to Israel – commanding [piel] them to pass it on…
      - They were to make sure their kids [hiphil] KNEW [יָדַע] the WORD of the LORD!
    - Fathers teach the children…
      - Too many dad are indifferent to the spiritual health of their family…
      - Assuming food on the table – and roof over their head – is their job…
      - But God commands FATHERS to step up be an EXAMPLE to their children…
      - Because if the father is interested in the BIBLE – his family will follow…

- Dads have the responsibility – obligation – to TEACH their kids about Jesus…
- To lead their family – their wives – so that they KNOW the WORD of God!
- **Ephesians 6:4** – "Bring [your children] up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

o 4th – Next Generation… vs. 6-8

- That the generation to come might know them - the children who would be born.
- That they may arise and declare them to their children. That they may set their hope in God.
- And not forget the works of God - but keep His commandments.
- And may not be like their fathers - a stubborn and rebellious generation.
- A generation that did not set its heart aright - and whose spirit was not faithful to God!
- It was NOT just for the CHILDREN – but the generation NOT yet born…
- Asaph wanted the GRANDCHILDREN – to tell [piel] their kids about God…
- So they would also put their HOPE in Him – and never FORGET His LAW [תּוֹרָה]
- So they would NOT be like their FATHERS – who were REBELLIOUS…
- Who because of their REBELLION - had a bad [hiphil] HEART – unfaithful [niphal] SPIRIT!
- It only takes ONE generation – that fails to pass on the WORD of God…
- For a NATION to turn their back – and walk AWAY from the LORD…
- Meaning a church that is FULL today – may be EMPTY tomorrow!
- It is easy to take for granted – that we KNOW Jesus – we KNOW His word…
- Forgetting there is a whole new GENERATION next to us who does NOT know…
- And there is another GENERATION coming after them – who are not even BORN yet…
- If we are NOT passing on our RELATIONSHIP with Jesus – we LOSE the WAR!

o 5th – Failure… vs. 9-11

- The children of Ephraim - being armed and carrying bows - turned back in the day of battle.
  - Asaph gives us a SPECIFIC example – the TRIBE of Ephraim…
  - Although they were the LARGEST tribe – and well ARMED – they ran away in the BATTLE!
  - There is no EXACT reference in the Bible that fits this account…
  - But in GENERAL we do have example of Ephraim being QUICK to arm…
  - Yet when the time comes – they are USELESS in the FIGHT – **Judges 8:1-3 – 12:1-6**
- They did not keep the covenant of God. They refused to walk in His law.
  - And forgot His works - and His wonders that He had shown them!
  - The REASON why Ephraim ran away – they did NOT keep the COVENANT
  - And they REFUSED [piel] to WALK – read DAILY - the LAW [תּוֹרָה] of God…
  - As a RESULT [sequential] they FORGOT the WONDERS [פֶּלֶא] God had done!
  - When we are NOT in the WORD – on a DAILY basis – it is EASY to FORGET…
  - We might have EVERYTHING else – armed for the BATTLE…
  - But if we do not REMEMBER that our GOD is the one who does the WONDERS…
  - We will quickly get overwhelmed – and end up RUNNING away!

- **2nd – The Exodus… vs. 12-31**

o 1st – The Wonders… vs. 12-16

- Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers - in the land of Egypt - in the field of Zoan.
  - What WONDERFUL [פֶּלֶא] things did God do – that is recorded in the BIBLE…
  - FIRST – Asaph takes us back to the EXODUS of Israel from EGYPT…
  - The fields of ZOAN – was a city where the Pharoah lived – **Isaiah 19:11**
- He divided the sea and caused them to pass through. He made the waters stand up like a heap.
  - In the daytime also He led them with the cloud - and all the night with a light of fire.
  - He split the rocks in the wilderness - and gave them drink in abundance like the depths.
  - He also brought streams out of the rock - and caused waters to run down like rivers!
  - WONDER [פֶּלֶא] of God PARTING an OCEAN for Israel to walk through – **Exodus 14:21**

- There are some who try and downplay the crossing the Red Sea…
- They argue they crossed at the Sea of Reeds [three feet deep] northern part the Red Sea…
- But do not MISS the description here – the waters stood UP in like a WALL!
- WONDER [פֶּלֶא] of the CLOUD by day and the FIRE at night – that LED Israel - **Exodus 13:21**
- WONDER [פֶּלֶא] of WATER coming out of ROCKS in the DRY desert [wilderness]
- Water from DEEP in the earth flowing out like RIVERS – **Exodus 17:6**

▪ THREE wonders…
- Asaph chose THREE very specific WONDERS – Israel needed to REMEMBER…
- Because having seen God part an OCEAN – being led by a pillar of FIRE…
- You would think Israel would never DOUBT that God was there and would PROVIDE…
- Yet when they lacked WATER – they questioned if the LORD was still with them!
- **Exodus 17:7** – "[Moses] called the name of the place Massah [מַסָּה]… because they tempted the LORD – saying - Is the LORD among us or not?"
- It seems no matter how much the Lord has done for us - we FORGET when trials come...
- As if somehow God has changed - He took care of us before - but maybe not this time…
- When we face the challenges of life - we only need look back to see...
- God has always been faithful to take care of our needs - and He always will be!
- **Hebrews 13:8** - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday – today - and forever."

o 2nd – The Rebellion… vs. 17-22

▪ But they sinned even more against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness.
- And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy.
- Yes - they spoke against God: They said - Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?
- Behold - He struck the rock - so that the waters gushed out - and the streams overflowed.
- He gives bread also. [But] can He provide meat for His people?
- Massah [מַסָּה] was NOT the only time Israel REBELLED [מָרָה] against the LORD…
- They SINNED even MORE – when they were in the WILDERNESS…
- Israel TEMPED [נָסָה] God again – complaining about the food…
- They tried to PROVOKE God – He gave WATER from a ROCK – and MANNA from heaven…
- But could He fill a TABLE with MEAT for the people to EAT!
- There were foreigners among Israel - Egyptians who came with them - **Exodus 12:38**
- They remembered all the good food of Egypt - longingly talking about it with others...
- Soon all of Israel began to complain - we want BETTER food!
- **Numbers 11:5-6** – "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt - the cucumbers - the melons… and the garlic. But now… there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"
- We are foolish if we think those around us do not affect us - **I Corinthians 15:33**
- Choose VERY wisely who you spend time with - because you will become like them!

▪ Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious. So a fire was kindled against Jacob.
- And anger also came up against Israel - because they did not believe in God.
- And did not trust in His salvation!
- The LORD heard their COMPLAINT – and was NOT happy…
- So He sent a FIRE – because they did NOT have FAITH in God – or TRUST in Jesus [יְשׁוּעָה]!
- The fire broke spread quickly among the tightly packed tents - **Numbers 11:1**
- The fire began on the outskirts - those who were the FARTHEST from the Tabernacle...
- The suggestion is this is where the COMPLAINTS had originated...
- Those who were the FARTHEST from God - were the ones to START it…
- So God sent His fire to consume them - stop them from infecting others!
- The FARTHER we are from the Lord - the more likely we are to COMPLAIN in life..
- We will find others quickly pick up the same tone - also begin to COMPLAIN with us...

- If we do NOT stop - God will step in to keep the BAD example from spreading!

o 3rd – The Wrath of God… vs. 23-31
- Yet He had commanded the clouds above - and opened the doors of heaven.
  - Had rained down manna on them to eat - and given them of the bread of heaven.
  - Men ate angels food. He sent them food to the full.
  - Every morning with the frost - the Lord rained [hiphil] manna from heaven...
  - It tasted like sweet pastries - it was the food of ANGELS…
  - Although the people were FULL – they were not CONTENT with ANGELS food…
  - They remembered what the WORLD had - and they thought that was better!
- He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens - and by His power He brought in the south wind.
  - He also rained meat on them like the dust - feathered fowl like the sand of the seas.
  - And He let them fall in the midst of their camp - all around their dwellings.
  - So they ate and were well filled - for He gave them their own desire.
  - God sent [hiphil] a wind - bringing with it quail from the sea - filling the camp like DUST...
  - For TWO days the people gathered quail - no one got less than 215kg of meat [1900 birds]
  - EVERYONE ate until they were VERY [מְאֹד] full – **Numbers 11:31-32**
- They were not deprived of their craving - but while their food was still in their mouths…
  - The wrath of God came against them - and slew the stoutest of them.
  - And struck down the choice men of Israel!
  - The LORD gave to Israel what they WANTED – but while they were still eating…
  - The WRATH of God came – and the FATTEST [מִשְׁמָן] of the people died…
  - Causing the YOUTH [בָּחוּר] of Israel to BOW [כָּרַע] to the LORD…
  - The place became known as - the graves of LUST – **Number 11:34**
  - Because they buried there those who WANTED the meat of Egypt!
  - We all have a LOT of WANTS in life – but the question is do we NEED it…
  - If God has not GIVEN it to us – then it must not be NEEDED – **Luke 12:31**
  - And if we INSIST we must have it – then we are going to QUESTION God…
  - It causes us to DOUBT His promises to us – undermines our TRUST in Jesus…
  - But we need the MANNA from heaven – not the MEAT of this world…
  - The LESSON of the QUAIL – it be CONTENT with what God has given!
  - **Hebrew 13:5** – "Be content with such things as you have…"

- **3rd – Cycle of Sin… vs. 32-39**

o 1st – Consequences… vs. 32-25
- In spite of this they still sinned - And did not believe in His wondrous works.
  - In spite of ALL [כֹּל] this – parting the REA SEA – MANNA – WATER from a rock – QUAIL…
  - Israel SINNED [perfect] – which kept [hiphil] them from BELIEVING the His WONDERS [פֶּלֶא]
  - Do not miss this – SIN keeps us from SEEING what God is doing around us…
  - It hardens our HEART so that we CANNOT believe – not matter what we SEE!
- Therefore their days He consumed in futility - and their years in fear.
  - When He slew them - then they sought Him - and they returned and sought earnestly for God.
  - Then they remembered that God was their rock - and the Most High God their Redeemer!
  - As a RESULT – of their SIN – their days were EMPTY [like a vapor]
  - But when God KILLED them – they people REPENTED – and [piel] SOUGHT God…
  - THEN [sequential] they remembered God was their ROCK – God most HIGH their redeemer!
  - The CYCLE of SIN is a dangerous trap we all have fallen into at one time of another…
  - SIN in our lives blinds us to the WONDERS God is doing all around us…
  - We end up living an EMPTY life – devoid off the purpose we are meant to have…
  - Until we end up being CRUSHED [killed] by the consequences of our CHOICES…

- ONLY then do we CRY out to the MOST high – and come back to the ROCK – our REDEEMER!

o 2nd – Empty words… vs. 36-37
- Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth - and they lied to Him with their tongue.
- For their heart was not steadfast with Him - nor were they faithful in His covenant!
- In the process of going through the CYCLE of SIN – their WORDS were always RIGHT…
- They KNEW what to say – how to SOUND like they were still LIVING for God…
- But they were LIARS [piel] – their lives did NOT match up with their WORDS…
- Because their HEARTS were not RIGHT [niphal] – because they did not KEEP the COVENANT!
- We have a WORD for people like this – we call them Hypocrites…
- We put on a MASK and PRETEND we are living for the LORD…
- But one does not have to look far – FACEBOOK posts – to see who we REALLY are…
- Our HEARTS are NOT right – shown in our LIVES that do NOT follow the COMMANDS of God!

o 3rd – Abundant Grace… vs. 38-39
- But He - being full of compassion - forgave their iniquity - and did not destroy them.
- Yes - many a time He turned His anger away - and did not stir up all His wrath.
- For He remembered they were but flesh - a breath that passes away and does not come again!
- BUT – one of the most powerful words as it pertains to God…
- Israel DESERVED to be DESTROYED for their consistent REBELLION…
- BUT – God was FULL of compassion – and FORGAVE [piel] their SIN – so they LIVED…
- MANY [רָבָה] times – He turned away His WRATH and ANGER…
- Because [sequential] He REMEMBERED who men are – a breath that ONLY lasts for a moment!
- Often we are more DISAPPOINTED with ourselves – than God is with us…
- We can beat ourselves up when we SIN – thinking how could we be so STUPID…
- But God is NOT surprised when we make mistakes – He KNOWS us…
- And pours our His GRACE upon us – if we will just turn and come back to Him!
- **Psalm 103:14** – "He knows how weak we are. He remembers we are only dust."

- **4th – The Plagues… vs. 40-55**

o 1st – Wounding God… vs. 40-41
- How often they provoked Him in the wilderness - and grieved Him in the desert!
- Yes - again and again they tempted God - and limited the Holy One of Israel!
- MANY times Israel REBELLED [מָרָה] in the WILDERNESS…
- EVERY time they did it caused [hiphil] the LORD to be HURT [עָצַב]
- They TURNED from the LORD over and over TEMPING [נָסָה] God…
- WOUNDING [תָּוָה] the HOLY [קָדוֹשׁ] one of Israel!
- Anyone who has children can understand exactly what this means…
- We want the VERY best for our children – our desire is to see them excel…
- But when they make POOR choices – when they rebel – it GREIVES and HURTS us!
- What a powerful picture of God as our FATHER – He aches when we REBEL…
- We might think God does not care – but our SINS are the WOUNDS in His hands!

o 2nd – Power of God… vs. 42-48
- They did not remember His power. The day when He redeemed them from the enemy.
  - When He worked His signs in Egypt - and His wonders in the field of Zoan.
  - Turned their rivers into blood - and their streams - that they could not drink.
  - He sent swarms of flies among them which devoured them - and frogs which destroyed them.
  - He also gave their crops to the caterpillar - and their labor to the locust.
  - He destroyed their vines with hail - and their sycamore trees with frost.
  - He also gave up their cattle to the hail - and their flocks to fiery lightning!
  - Israel NEVER [perfect] remembered how the HAND of God had DELIVERED them…

- The TEN plagues [signs] He did before Pharoah [field of Zoan] – Asaph gives us FIVE of them:
- FIRST - God turned the NILE to BLOOD – so they could NOT drink – **Exodus 7:20**
- FOURTH – God sent FLIES that ATE the people – perhaps mosquitos - **Exodus 8:21**
- SECOND – God sent FROGS that caused all their FOOD to SPOIL [destroyed] – **Exodus 8:6**
- EIGHTH – God sent GRASSHOPPERS that became LOCUSTS – **Exodus 10:14**
- Interesting to note GRASSHOPPERS and LOCUST are the same INSECT…
- What they become depends on how many there are – LOTS become LOCUSTS!
- SEVENTH – God sent HAIL to destroy their PLANTS and TREES [frost] - **Exodus 9:24-25**
- Even their CATTLE and SHEEP were killed by the HAIL and FIRE – Exodus!

▪ The PLAGUES
- The LIST of the TEN plagues might seem odd to us…
- But ISRAEL would have understood the message God was giving to them…
- Each one of the PLAGUES corresponded to an Egyptian deity!
- The Nile to BLOOD - HAPI was the Egyptian god of the Nile
- FROGS - HEQT was Goddess of fertility – had the face of a frog
- FLIES - KHEPRI the Egyptian god of creation - face of a fly
- Hail and fire rain down from the SKY - NUT the Egyptian goddess of the sky
- God showed ISRAEL [and Egypt] there was NO other God GREATER than Him…
- But they FORGOT the LESSON – and wanted to go back to EGYPT!
- God shows us His POWER – proves to us that He ALONE is able to REDEEM us…
- But somehow it is hard for us to REMEMBER that – when the hard times come…
- We tend do go back to the WORLD [Egypt] to find the answers…
- We look to POWERLESS gods – who can do NOTHING to help us!

o 3rd – The DEATH angel… vs. 49-51

▪ He cast on them the fierceness of His anger – wrath – indignation - and trouble.
- By sending angels of destruction among them.
- He made a path for His anger. He did not spare their soul from death.
- But gave their life over to the plague - and destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt.
- The first of their strength in the tents of Ham!
- God REDEEMED– because He was VERY [piel] angry with Egypt [FOUR words for ANGRY]
- He sent EVIL [רָעִים] angels – the FINAL plague – **Exodus 11:4-5**
- In His ANGER [piel] – God took the LIVES of all the FIRST born in Egypt…
- STRENGTH of the HOUSE [אֹהֶל] of HAM [Egyptians are descendants of Ham – son of Noah]
- BUT – ISRAEL was NOT harmed – they did NOT experience the WRATH of God…
- Because they had the BLOOD of the LAMB on their doors – **Exodus 12:13**

▪ The BLOOD – was the SIGN that promised DEATH would PASSOVER them…
- All of us have SINNED – and we have EARNED the WRATH of God…
- But so longs as we have the BLOOD of the LAMB on our hearts…
- Death PASSES over us – we are forgiven and given new life
- NOT because of anything we have done – but because of what Jesus did for us!
- **I Peter 1:19** – "[We are redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

o 4th – Always faithful… vs. 52-55

▪ But He made His own people go forth like sheep - and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
- He led them on safely - so that they did not fear - but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
- And He brought them to His holy border - this mountain which His right hand had acquired!
- Therefore [sequential] – God was able to LEAD [piel] Israel like a flock out of Egypt…
- God led them - so they did not FEAR [through the RED Sea]
- But their ENEMIES [Egypt] – were drowned in the SEA – **Exodus 14:28**

        - And took [hiphil] them to His HOLY [קָדֹשׁ] mountain [Sinai]
    - He also drove out the nations before them - allotted them an inheritance by survey.
        - And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.
        - FAST forward – skipping the FORTY years in the wilderness…
        - God brough ISRAEL into the PROMISED land – DRIVING [piel] out the nations [גּוֹיִם]
        - Then He divided the LAND among the TWELVE tribes – **Joshua 11-21**
        - The SIMPLE point – God had ALWAYS been faithful…
        - He never FAILS – from the EXODUS to the INHERITANCE – God was there…
        - Yet in SPITE of His GOODNESS – Israel seemed determined to REBEL!

- **5TH – TESTING GOD… VS. 55-64**
    - 1st – Like their Fathers… vs. 55-57
        - Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God - and did not keep His testimonies.
        - But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers - turned aside like a deceitful bow!
        - In SPITE of all God had done - Israel TEMPED [נָסָה] the MOST high [אֱלֹהִים עֶלְיוֹן] again…
        - REFUSING to HOLD onto the WITNESS [testimony] of what God had done…
        - The RESULT [niphal] was they went BACK to the WORLD – just like their FATHERS!
        - It is far WISER to learn from the mistakes of others [fathers] - rather than to REPEAT them...
        - Unfortunately sometimes we are STUBBORN – and do NOT learn for their example...
        - We have to go through the school of hard knocks – and learn the hard way!
    - 2nd – Jealous God… vs. 58-59
        - They provoked Him to anger with their high places - moved Him to jealousy with carved images.
        - When God heard this - He was furious - and greatly abhorred Israel!
        - Israel caused [hiphil] God to be ANGRY and JEALOUS – with their HIGH places and IDOLS…
        - The RESULT [sequential] was God really [מְאֹד] REJECTED Israel…
        - Do NOT get the idea that Israel immediately put UP false gods…
        - Instead they went to HIGH places [closer to God] and put up IMAGE [to remind them of God]!
        - If we are FAR from family – we will put pictures around to REMIND us of them…
        - But when are family is NEAR – we no longer have need of the PICTURES!
        - The farther our relationship is from God – we tend to look for things to REMIND us...
        - We fill the void in our lives with superstations – images or symbols of God…
        - But the need for HIGH places – or IMAGES – should be a WARNING to us…
        - We are FAR from the LORD – and need to REPENT – before we end up LOST!
    - 3rd – Rejection… vs. 60-64
        - So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh - the tent He had placed among men.
        - And delivered His strength into captivity - and His glory into the enemy hand.
        - He also gave His people over to the sword - and was furious with His inheritance.
        - The fire consumed their young men - and their maidens were not given in marriage.
        - Their priests fell by the sword - and their widows made no lamentation!
        - God LEFT [sequential] the TABERNACLE that was in SHILOH [שִׁילֹה] – placed among MEN [אָדָם]
        - The Tabernacle was in SHILOH [30km north of Jerusalem] from the time of Joshua - **Joshua 18:1**
        - Until the time of the prophet Samuel [it was moved to the city of Nob] – **I Samuel 21:1**
        - During those 400+ years – period of the JUDGES - God often would let Israel be CONQUERED…
        - Giving [sequential] His people to the SWORD – because He was ANGRY with them…
        - So that their YOUNG men died – and YOUNG women had no one to MARRY…
        - Their PRIEST were killed [sword] – and their WIVES did not CRY [wicked men]!
        - If we REFUSE to get into the WORD – IGNORE the lessons God wrote down for us…
        - Then we are DESTINED to repeat MISTAKES of Israel…
        - The CYCLE of SIN – that was the MARK of the period of the JUDGES…

- SIN – that leads to DEFEAT – because we have REJECTED the LORD…
- When we SUFFER the CONSEQUENCES – they cause us to CRY out to God…
- Who REDEEMS us – only for life to become EASY – so we walk away and fall back into SIN!

- **6TH – COMING BACK TO GOD… VS. 65-72**
  - 1st – Victory from God… vs. 65-66
    - Then the Lord awoke as from sleep - like a mighty man who shouts because of wine.
    - And He beat back His enemies. He put them to a perpetual reproach!
    - THEN [sequential] the Lord [אֲדֹנָי] woke up…
    - And God SPANKED the BUT [literal] of His ENEMIES – to MOCK them!
    - God used Babylon to PUNISH the nation of Judah when the rebelled…
    - But because Babylon was HARSH to Judah – God brough His WRATH on them – **Jeremiah 50:33**
    - God does will NOT reject His people forever…
    - Once they LEARN the lesson – God gets up – and HEAVEN help those who hurt His kids!
  - 2nd – Chosen by God… vs. 67-69
    - Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph - and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim.
    - But chose the tribe of Judah - Mount Zion which He loved.
    - And He built His sanctuary like the heights. Like the earth which He has established forever!
    - BUT – God REJECTED [sequential] the TRIBE of Ephraim [son of Joseph]
    - Instead he CHOSE the TRINE of Judah – and MOUNT Zion [Jerusalem]
    - Where He BUILT [sequential] the TEMPLE – like the HOLY [קֹדֶשׁ] place in Heaven…
    - Why did God REJECT Ephraim – because they REJECTED the Word of God – **Psalms 78:10**
    - If we want to be USED by God – the KEY is to be in the WORD of God…
    - Because that is where we are going to LEARN about God – and His WONDERS!
  - 3rd – Humble before God… vs. 70-72
    - He also chose David His servant - and took him from the sheepfolds.
    - From following the ewes that had young He brought him - to shepherd Jacob His people.
    - And Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart.
    - And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands!
    - And CHOSE [sequential] David – His SERVANT [עֶבֶד] – who was a SHEPHERD…
    - From following SHEEP – to SHEPHERDING [רָעָה] Jacob [rebellious] and Israel [Godly]
    - David SHEPHERD [רָעָה] them with a GOOD heart – and SMART hands!
    - God does not NEED our STRENGTH [Ephraim] or our WEAPONS…
    - The PERSON God choses to USE – is someone who is HUMBLE [shepherd]
    - The one who has a HEART for the LORD – someone who KNOWS the WORD of the LORD…
    - Because then we LEAD others to the LORD – because we KNOW Him!