

A The rebellion of the people (Psalm 78).

- ❖ By order of David, Asaph was chosen from among the Levites as choir director (1Chr. 15:1-4, 16-17; 16:4-5, 37). He and his sons were prophets and composed psalms (1Chr. 25:1). In Psalm 78, Asaph recalls history from the Exodus to the days of David, intending to teach us important lessons (Ps. 78:2).
- ❖ The intention of the Psalm is for us to remember how God has led his people, and deserves our praise. We must teach it to our children so that they do not become rebellious as their ancestors were (Psalm 78:1-8).
- ❖ God sent plagues to Egypt, divided the sea, directed them with a cloud by day and fire by night, and brought water out of the rock. The people did not believe that God could give them meat and bread. But He gave them quails and manna. Despite their rebellions, He did not destroy them (Psalm 78:9-54).
- ❖ They were established in Canaan because God expelled its inhabitants. But they rebelled again, and God handed them over to the power of their enemies (Psalm 78:55-64).
- ❖ Finally, God rose to deliver his people again through David. He called a shepherd to shepherd his people. He put the scepter in Judah's hand and chose Jerusalem as his capital. Despite the rebellion, God was faithful then and remains faithful today (Psalm 78:65-72).

B God's action (Psalm 105).

- ❖ In Psalm 105 there is no mention of human errors. God's miraculous performance is exalted from the promise made to Abraham to inherit Canaan, until its fulfillment (Ps. 105:11, 44).
 - God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 8-11)
 - He protected them while they were weak (v. 12-15)
 - Saved Israel from famine through Joseph (v. 16-24)
 - When they were enslaved, he sent Moses and punished Egypt (v. 25-38)
 - He led Israel through the desert to the land of Canaan (v. 39-44)
- ❖ When remembering the story:
 - We will praise God and speak of his wonders (v. 1-2)
 - We will glory and be glad in God (v. 105:3)
 - We will seek God (v. 105:4)
 - We will be aware of God's judgments (v. 105:5-7)
 - We will keep his commandments (v. 105:45)

C Repentance (Psalm 106).

- ❖ The history of Israel is a history of sin and repentance, like the history of each of us. Psalm 106 reviews this story, emphasizing that each time Israel sinned, they suffered the consequences, but they were mitigated by divine grace (Ps. 106:7-8). God forgave them, and they returned to obeying Him... for a time (Ps. 106:12-13).
- ❖ The intercession of Moses and Phinehas is highlighted, which are types of Jesus' intercession for us (Ps. 106:23, 28-31).
- ❖ But God's patience has a limit. When the people went further, he handed them over to captivity. However, even in captivity, God showed his mercy (Ps. 106:39-46).
- ❖ History gives us confidence that we can ask God for forgiveness, and receive deliverance from Him. Then we will praise Him for eternity (Ps. 106:47-48).

D The face of God shines (Psalm 80).

- ❖ In the book of Psalms we find a very special psalm: Psalm 80, the psalm-parable.
- ❖ Israel is compared to a vineyard that God moved from Egypt, planted in Canaan, and made it grow from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates (Ps. 80:8-11).
- ❖ But God allowed the vineyard to be neglected, and his enemies to enter it to destroy it (Ps. 80:12-13).
- ❖ For this reason, the psalmist begs the "Shepherd of Israel" to arise and save (Ps. 80:1-2). He is sure that God will hear him, and will make his face shine on his desolate vineyard (Ps. 80:3, 7, 14, 19).
- ❖ Shine his face? What does this mean?
- ❖ God's face shines for us when he shows us his mercy and grants us peace (Num. 6:24-26).

E The Lord of history (Psalm 135).

- ❖ We praise God for his goodness and power (Psalm 135:1-5).
- ❖ How has God shown his goodness and power?
 - In Creation (Psalm 135:6-7)
 - At the time of the Exodus (Psalm 135:8-9)
 - In the conquest of Canaan (Psalm 135:10-12)
- ❖ We praise God because he will judge us with mercy (Ps. 135:13-14)
- ❖ Since God's power in Creation and history is unparalleled in the world, God's people must always trust in Him and worship Him alone. As our Creator and Redeemer, God alone must we worship.