

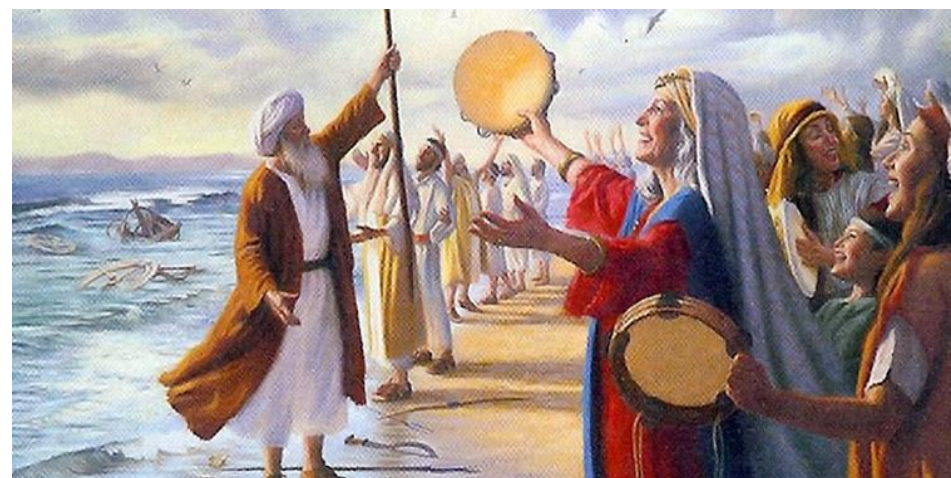
# LESSONS OF THE PAST







“Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:3, 4, NKJV)

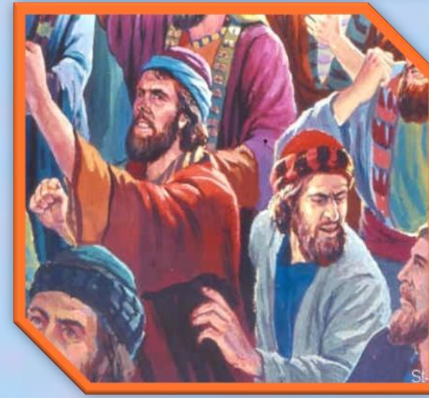




The historical psalms tell us the main events in the history of the people of Israel. They especially focus on the way God led them out of Egypt.

They do not tell us epic stories, but pure reality. The people were rebellious, but God forgave them time after time, and always acted in their favor. Despite all their rebellions, he made them live safely in Canaan.

The history of God's people demonstrates that no promise that God has made in His Word will be left unfulfilled. This includes both divine promises of present individual care and future promises of Christ's second coming, which will establish God's kingdom of justice and peace on the new earth.



- ❑ The rebellion of the people (Psalm 78).
- ✅ God's action (Psalm 105).
- ❑ Repentance (Psalm 106).
- ✅ The face of God shines (Psalm 80).
- ❑ The Lord of history (Psalm 135).



# THE PEOPLE'S REBELLION

**"But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the wilderness against the Most High"**  
(Psalm 78:17)

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).

Psalm 78:1-8

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 be rebellious like their ancestors were.

Psalm 78:9-54

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.

Despite their rebellions, He did not destroy them.

Psalm 78:55-64

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 78:65-72

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.

# THE ACTION OF GOD

**"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done."  
(Psalm 105:1)**

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)**



Remembering history has a purpose: to enable us to fully praise God. 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. 3)
-  We will seek God (v. 4)
-  We will be aware of God's judgments (v. 5-7)
-  We will keep his commandments (v. 45)





# REPENTANCE

*"We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; " we have done wrong and acted wickedly... Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known" (Psalm 106:6,8)*



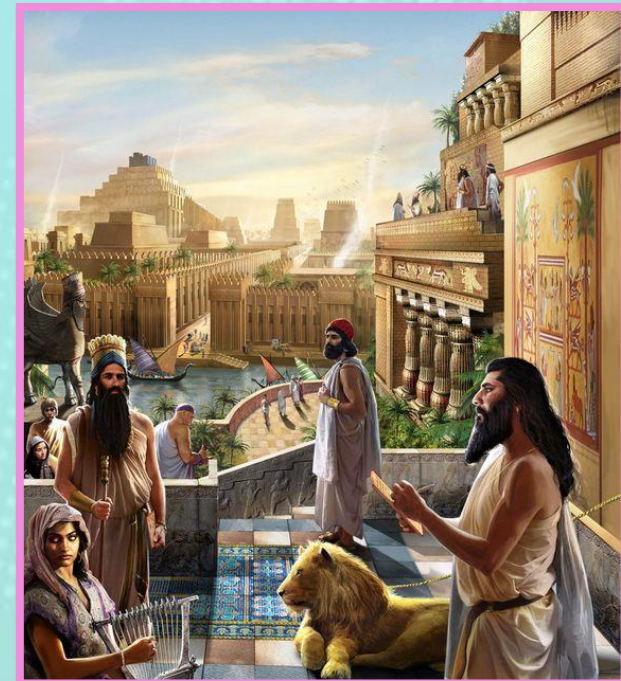
The history of Israel is a history of sin and repentance, like the history of each of us.

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).





# THE FACE OF GOD SHINES

*"Restore us, O God; Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:3)*

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).



# THE LORD OF HISTORY

"The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and in all their depths" (Psalm 135:6)

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)



Because God's power in creation and history is unparalleled in the world, God's people should always rely on Him and worship Him alone. As our Creator and our Redeemer, He alone should be worshiped.



**“The dealings of God with His people should be often repeated. How frequently were the waymarks set up by the Lord in His dealings with ancient Israel! Lest they should forget the history of the past, He commanded Moses to frame these events into song, that parents might teach them to their children. [...] For His people in this generation the Lord has wrought as a wonder-working God. The past history of the cause of God needs to be often brought before the people, young and old. We need often to recount God's goodness and to praise Him for His wonderful works”**

**EGW (Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, page 364)**