



Psalms
The Book of Praises

Lesson 22

Historical Psalms

Historical Psalms

- Psalm 105:1-6
- Introduction
 - Some psalms described historical events in Israel
 - Played an important part in the education of each new generation & edifying older generations
 - Setting history to music was and is today an effective way of committing it to memory
 - History involves:
 - Experience
 - Education
 - Evaluation

Lessons for Today

- The psalmists drew from history to increase their faith; do we draw from the Scriptures and the historical record to increase our faith?
- God is faithful to His promises and to His people. God has always had a plan and it will be fulfilled.
- God is tremendously patient and longsuffering. Let us not try Him by continuing in sin.

Historical Psalms

Q2. What are some New Testament passages that tell us why we should study history (the Old Testament)?

- Gal. 3:24-25; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11;
2 Tim. 3:16-17

Q3. What period of history is referred to most often in these historical psalms? Why do you think this is?

- The Exodus
- 78; 80:8-9; 105:26-41; 106:7-15; 135:8-9;
136:10-15
- Marked the beginning of Israel as a nation;
instilled faith in an awesome God

Historical Psalms

- David flees Absalom
- Cushite brought news of Absalom's death
- David's deliverance from all his enemies and the hand of Saul
- At the dedication of the house of David
- Treachery of a friend of David – Ahithophel
- David and Joab's battle with Syrians and Edomites
- From exodus to the time of David
- The covenant made with David
- The rebellions of Israel
- David's vow to find a dwelling place for the Lord

Historical Psalms

- The ark brought back to Jerusalem
- God choosing the holy city Zion
- God in creation
- Their time in Babylonian captivity



Psalm 78

- A Contemplation of Asaph
- Purpose – to instruct the coming generation against infidelity by the clear lessons of history

“In this case we can clearly discern the propriety of this designation. In its own way the psalm develops a kind of philosophy of history in a plain and practical form of instruction that can be passed on by parents to children ... Though it is didactic the psalm is far from pedantic. It manifests a free and genial treatment of history. Strict historical sequence is not so important as are the lessons taught by history. So, for example, the sequence of events happens to be: the exodus, the plagues, the occupation. But such a sequence does not impair the logic or the effectiveness of treatment.” (H.C. Leupold)

Psalm 78

Q4. From Ps. 78:1-8, list some reasons for telling the children about Israel's history.

- That they may know the history
- That they may tell them to their children
- That they may set their hope in God
- That they may not forget the works of God
- That they may keep His commandments and not be rebellious like their fathers

- Article, p. 69 – last three sections
- Deut. 6:6-9; 11:19-21; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 3:15

Psalm 78 - Outline

- Vv. 1-8 – the purpose of the psalm
- Vv. 9-11 – Ephraim, a typical example of infidelity
- Vv. 12-31 – Instances of God's gracious dealings at the time of the Exodus and wanderings as well as Israel's unfaithfulness
- Vv. 32-39 – God's judgments and Israel's shallow repentance
- Vv. 40-55 – Israel's rebellion in the wilderness and against the background of the mighty works of God done shortly before in Egypt
- Vv. 56-64 – Israel's infidelity after the occupation of the land and God's subsequent judgments
- Vv. 65-72 – evidences of God's faithful care in the establishment of the kingdom under David

Psalm 78

- Their rebellious history:
 - 9-11, 17-19, 32-33, 40-42, 56-58
- The great signs He did among them:
 - Vv. 12-16 – Dividing the Red Sea, leading by a pillar of cloud and fire, bringing water from the rock
 - Vv. 23-28 – Food in the wilderness – manna from above, birds from the sky
 - Vv. 42-55 – Plagues of Egypt, overwhelmed their enemies, and drove out nations before them
- Note His longsuffering described:
 - Vv. 38-39
- Closes – establishing the kingdom in Judah
 - Vv. 67-72

Psalm 78

- Purpose or message for them:
 - Vv. 6-8
 - That they may know the history
 - That they may tell them to their children
 - That they may set their hope in God
 - That they may not forget the works of God
 - That they may keep His commandments and not be rebellious like their fathers
- Message to us today:
 - Heb. 2:1-4; 10:28-31

Historical Psalms

- 3 – David flees Absalom (2 Sam. 15:13-17)
- 7 – Possibly Cushite who brought news of Absalom's death (2 Sam. 18:19-32), or possibly Shimei who threw stones at David when they fled Jerusalem due to Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam. 16:5-8)
- 18 – David's deliverance from all his enemies and the hand of Saul
- 30 – At the dedication of the house of David
- 55 – Treachery of a friend of David, probably Ahithophel (2 Sm. 15:12; 16:20-23)
- 60 – David and Joab's battle with Syrians and Edomites (2 Sam. 8:3-14; 1 Chron. 18:3-12)

Historical Psalms

- 77 – The exodus
- 78 – From the exodus (10 plagues in Egypt) to the time of David
- 80 – Refers to being brought out of Egypt and planted in the promised land
- 89 – The covenant made with David regarding his kingdom (1 Chron. 17:7-14)
- 105 – From the covenant made with Abraham to entering the promised land
- 106 – The rebellions of Israel – from the Red Sea, through the wilderness wanderings, and even into Canaan

Historical Psalms

- 132 – 1) David's vow to find a dwelling place for the Lord, 2) When the ark was found and then brought back to Jerusalem, 3) The covenant made with David, 4) God choosing the holy city Zion
- 135 – 1) God in creation, 2) the exodus, 3) the occupation of the land of Canaan and defeat of two of the mighty kings
- 136 – 1) God in creation, 2) the exodus, 3) the journey through the wilderness and the entrance into Canaan
- 137 – Their time in Babylonian captivity

Lessons for Today

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