

Limiting God; A Bible Study

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“Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel” (Psalm 78:41)

Context: Psalm 78, “A Contemplation of Asaph”

Themes: God’s kindness to, redemptive work for, and faithfulness towards Israel

Scope: Primarily Exodus, Also Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel

Christological Significance: Christ Jesus fulfills all the themes above in the spiritual sense.

Summary Statement: God has proven His faithfulness in history, and can be trusted now, to fulfill His purposes in you.

General Outline of Psalm 78: (How to get the most out of this study: Read the verses in the Psalm, and then the cross referenced Scriptures, or in light of the larger passages/books)

1. Psalm 78:1-8 (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
2. Psalm 78:9-11 (Deuteronomy 1:41-44)
3. Psalm 78:12-13 (Exodus 14:21-22, 15:8)
4. Psalm 78:14 (Exodus 40:36-38)
5. Psalm 78:15-16 (Exodus 17:6)
6. Psalm 78:17-31 (Exodus 16:12-15; Numbers 11:4,18)
7. Psalm 78:32-39 (Summary of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
8. Psalm 78:40-43 (Summary of 78:1-39)
9. Psalm 78:44-51 (Exodus Chapters 7-11)
10. Psalm 78:52-55 (Exodus 14; End of Deuteronomy, Book of Joshua)
11. Psalm 78:56-66 (Book of Judges)
12. Psalm 78:67-72 (Genesis 49:8-10; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; 2 Samuel 5:6-10)

“They limited the Holy One of Israel” (Consider the uniformity of the Bible’s teaching on these points, and apply them to your life, making honest assessment of your spiritual condition)

1. **Through Unbelief:** (Psalm 78:19)
 - a. **Prevents God from Working:** Matthew 13:15
 - b. **Causes Spiritual Blindness:** John 3:11-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
2. **Through Sin:** (Psalm 78:60)
 - a. **Sinful Life Tends to Deterioration:** 2 Timothy 3:13
 - b. **Invites God’s Judgment:** Romans 2:3
 - c. **Leads to Eternal Separation from God:** Hebrews 12:25
3. **Through Backsliding:** (Psalm 78:57)
 - a. **Dissatisfaction with Divine Provision:** Proverbs 14:14
 - b. **Indifference to the Things of God:** Matthew 24:12
 - c. **Refusal to Live in Christ’s Freedom:** John 8:32-36
 - d. **Return to Sin’s Bondage:** Galatians 4:9