

Psalm 78:40-72

Why is this section associated with the cleansing of the leper in **Leviticus 14**?

See **Psalm 78:59** - "When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel" The word for "abhor" is also used in **Psalm 118:22** - "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." - Relating to leprosy in a house (the Temple).

The same word is used here for loathsome: **Job 7:5** - "My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken and become loathsome."

Psalm 78:40 - "How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!"

(An emphatic repetition of **Psalm 78:17-18**)

Ten instances of murmuring are actually recorded in Exodus and Numbers.

- **Numbers 14:22** - "Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;"

Genesis 6:6 - "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

"vexed" or "grieved his Holy Spirit" - see **Isaiah 63:10**, **Ephesians 4:30**

- **Hebrews 3:17** - "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?"

Psalm 78:41 - "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

"turned back" - *shub* - repent, return, turn back.

They talked of going back to Egypt, and of choosing a captain to lead them back there, (**Numbers 14:3**)

"tempted" = *nâçâh* - to try, put to the test

"limited" = *tavah* - scraping to pieces, thus to cause pain, wound, trouble. Used only once.

But the rabbis identified this word with an identical one used elsewhere to mean to "set

a mark" - which could mean to limit, or more probably to enscribe a sign.

- **Ezekiel 9:4** - "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set (*tavah*) a mark (*tav*) upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof"

Targum - they "signed him" with a sign. i.e. "you are not God unless you respond in the certain way that I expect." The mark or sign is my image of God, my expectation. This is the reason the Pharisees did not recognize Jesus.

Psalm 78:42-53 - They have forgotten God's salvation in the Exodus from Egypt. The list of plagues is not a complete enumeration, and does not proceed in the order of the historic narrative.

Psalm 78:54-55 - "And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents."

Psalm 78:56-58 - "Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images."

They tested God 10 times in the wilderness, and then once they arrived in the Promised Land through their idolatry.

Psalm 78:59 - "When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand."

"abhorred" = *ma'ac* - reject, to spurn as loathsome. This word is also used in **Psalm 118:22** - "The stone which the builders refused (*ma'ac*) is become the head stone of the corner." Relating to leprosy in a house (the Temple) and new Temple which is built in Christ, with us a living stones.

See also **Job 7:5** - "My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken and become loathsome."

"he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh" - When the Ark was taken by the Philistines (**1 Samuel 5 and 6**).

Psalm 78:62 - "He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance."

- And there fell of them thirty thousand men at once, **1 Samuel 4:10**.

Psalm 78:64 - "Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation."

Targum: "at the time that the Philistines carried captive the ark of the Lord, the priests of Shiloh, Hophni, and Phinehas, fell by the sword; and at the time they brought their wives the news of it, they wept not, for they died even the same day."

Psalm 78:67 - "Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim"

When the ark was brought back by the Philistines, it was not returned to Shiloh, but carried to Kirjathjearim, where it remained twenty years, and after that was had to Zion, the city of David, (**1 Samuel 7:1**).

Psalm 78:69 - "And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever."

Not like the "high places" of idolatry - but lofty and honored:

Targum: "as the horn of the unicorn" - or built "on high" as in the heavenlies, referring to the Heavenly Jerusalem, for which it was a figure or type.

"like the earth" - the new earth, like the new heavens, will be forever:

- **Ecclesiastes 1:4** - "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

He chose David of the tribe of Judah. The shepherd became the shepherd of Israel, and foreshadowed Messiah, the Good Shepherd.

Psalm 78:72 - "So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands."

"skillfulness of his hands" - The use of the shepherd's staff in guiding the sheep becomes the rod of authority in ruling Israel.

Revelation 19:15 - "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty."

"rule" = *poimainō* - to tend and feed a flock as a shepherd, guide and protect. An iron rod means his rule cannot be broken, and that it is irresistible against enemies.

