

May 16 Answers

- 1) Asaph's psalms. Psalm 78 is an inspired and insightful **commentary** on the early history of Israel, and it provides a means of obeying God's command to **teach** the next generation (Deut 4:9–10; 6:7, 20–25). What better way to teach our children about God than through **song**? Asaph wrote powerfully of God's mighty acts. He told of the great plagues God brought on the Egyptians, he recalled the crossing of the Red Sea, and he remembered the many times God provided food and water in the desert. Yet running like a black thread through the psalm is the remembrance of the people's **unbelief**. They were "a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not **faithful** to God" (Ps 78:8). Were they amazed by God's miracles? Yes, but "they **forgot** his works and the wonders that he had shown them" (Ps 78:11). Were they refreshed by the water God gave them? Yes, but they spoke against Him saying, "He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give **bread** or provide **meat** for his people?" (Ps 78:19–20). Did the people seek God when He punished them? Yes, but they "flattered him with their mouths; they **lied** to him with their tongues. Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant" (Ps 78:34–37). This psalm warns us not to forget God's works: "Set your **hope** in God" and "**Keep** his commandments" (Ps 78:7).