Psalm 78

4. Not being as their fathers were, rebelling in God’s sight, And would not frame their wicked hearts to know their God aright.
9. How went the people of Ephraim their neighbours for to spoil, Shooting their darts the day of war, and yet they took the soil?

5. For why? They did not keep with God, the covenant that was made: Nor yet would walk or lead their lives, according to his trade.
10. But put into oblivion his counsel and his will, And all his works most magnific,34 which he declared still.

6. What wonders to our forefathers, did he himself disclose In Egypt land, within the field, that called is Taneos?35
11. He did divide and cut the sea, that they might pass at ones, And made the water stand as still, as doth an heap of stones.

7. He led them secret in a cloud, by day when it was bright: And all the night, when dark it was, with fire he gave them light.
12. Wherefore he did command the clouds: forthwith they brake in sunder: And rained down man’ for them to eat, a food of mikel37 wonder.

8. He drew out rivers out of rocks, that were both dry and hard: Of such abundance that no floods to them might be compared.
13. Then did they eat exceedingly, and all men had their fills: Yet more and more they did desire, to serve their lusts and wills.

9. They tempted him within their hearts, like people of mistrust: Requiring such a kind of meat, as served to their lust.
14. Saying with murmuration36 in their unfaithfulness: “What? Can this God prepare for us, a feast in wilderness?”

10. Behold, he strake the stony rock, and floods forthwith did flow: But can he now give to his folk, both bread and flesh also?
15. When God heard this, he waxed wroth, with Jacob and his seed: So did his indignation, on Israel proceed.

11. Because they did not faithfully believe and hope that he: Could always help and succour them, in their necessity.
16. Wherefore he did command the clouds: forthwith they brake in sunder: And rained down flesh as thick as dust, and fowl as thick as sand:
17. Which he did cast amidst the place, where all their tents did stand.

12. When earthly men with angels’ food, were fed at their request, 20. He bade the east wind blow away, and brought in the southwest, 21. And rained down flesh as thick as dust, and fowl as thick as sand:
22. Which he did cast amidst the place, where all their tents did stand.

13. Then did they eat exceedingly, and all men had their fills: Yet more and more they did desire, to serve their lusts and wills.
23. But as the meat was in their mouths, his wrath upon them fell,
24. And slew the flower of all the youth, and choice of Israel.

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34 Magnificent.
35 Also Zoan.
36 Murmuring.
37 Much.
14. Yet fell they to their wonted sin,
and still they did him grieve:
For all the wonders that he wrought,
they would him not believe.
Their days therefore he shortened,
and made their honour vain:
Their years did waste and pass away,
with terror and with pain.

15. But ever when he plagued them,
they fought him by and by:
Remembering then he was their strength,
their help and God most high.
Though in their mouths they did but gloss
and flatter with the Lord:
And with their tongues, and in their hearts
dissembled every word.

16. For why? Their hearts were nothing bent
to him, nor to his trade,
Nor yet to keep, or to perform
the covenant that was made.
Yet was he still so mercifull,
when they deserved to die,
That he forgave them their misdeeds,
and would not them destroy.

17. Yea, many a time he turned his wrath,
and did himself avise,38
And would not suffer all his whole
displeasure to arise,
Considering that they were but flesh,
and even as a wind,
That passeth away, and cannot well
return by his own kind.

18. How often times in wilderness,
did they their Lord provoke?
How did they move and stir their Lord,
to plague them with his stroke?
Yet did they turn again to sin,
and tempted God eftsoone:39
Prescribing to the holy Lord,
what things they would have done.

19. Not thinking of his hand and power,
nor of the day, when he
Delivered them out of the bonds,
of the fierce enemy.
Now he wrought his miracles,
as they themselves beheld,
In Egypt, and the wonders that
he did in Zoan field.

20. Nor how he turned by his power
their waters into blood,
That no man might receive his drink,
at river nor at flood.
Nor how he sent them swarms of flies
which did them sore annoy,
And filled their country full of frogs
which should their land destroy.

21. Nor how he did commit their fruits
unto the caterpillar:
And all the labour of their hands
he gave to the grasshopper.
With hailstones he destroyed their vines,
so that they were all lost:
And not so much as wild fig trees,
but he consumed with frost.

22. And yet with hailstones once again,
the Lord their cattle smote:
And all their flocks and herds likewise,
with thunderbolts full hot.
He cast upon them in his ire,
and in his fury strong,
Displeasure, wrath and evil spirits,
to trouble them among.

23. The to his wrath he made away,
and spared not the least:
But gave unto the pestilence,
the man and eke the beast.
He strake also the firstborn all,
that up in Egypt came:
And all the chief of men and beasts
within the tents of Ham.

38 To think (oneself) carefully.
39 Soon, or afterwards.
24. But as for all his own dear folk, he did preserve and keep, And carried them through wilderness, even like a flock of sheep. Without all fear both safe and sound, he brought them out of thrall: Whereas their foes with rage of sea, were overwhelmed all:

25. And brought them out into the coasts, of his own holy land: Even to the mount which he had got by his strong arm and hand. And there cast out the heathen folk, and did their land divid: And in their tents he set the tribes, of Israel to abide.

26. Yet for all this, their God most high, they stirred and tempted still: And would not keep his testament, nor yet obey his will. But as their fathers turned back, even so they went astray: Much like a bow that would not bend, but slipped and start away.

27. And grieved him with their hill altars, with offerings and with fire: And with their idols, vehemently provoked him to ire. Therewith his wrath began again to kindle in his breast: The naughtiness of Israel he did so much detest.

28. Then he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, where he was right conversant with earthymen, even as his dwelling place. Then suffered he his might and power, in bondage for to stand: And gave the honour of his ark, into his enemy's hand.

29. And did commit them to the sword, wroth with his heritage: The young men were devoured with fire: maids had no marriage, And with the sword the priests also, did perish every one: And not a widow left alive their death for to bemoan.

30. And then the Lord began to wake, like one that slept a time: Or like a valiant man of war, refreshed after wine. With hemorrhoids in the hinder parts, he strake his enemies all: And put them then unto shame, that was perpetual.

31. Then he the tent and tabernacle, of Joseph did refuse: As for the tribe of Ephraim, he would in no wise choose. But chose the tribe of Jehudah, whereas he thought to dwell: Even the noble mount Zion, which he did love so well.

32. Where as he did his temple build, both sumptuously and sure: Like as the earth which he hath made forever to endure. Then chose he David him to serve, his people for to keep, Which he took up and brought away, even from the folds of sheep.

33. As he did follow th'ewes with young, the Lord did him advance, To feed his people of Israel, and his inheritance. Then David with a faithful heart his flock and charge did feed: And prudently with all his power, did govern them indeed.

Epenthesis is used here to fill the metre. The real word is Judah.