

Psalm 78:33-37

Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear. When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

Have you ever gotten a speeding ticket or any other driving ticket? I remember way back when I was in my early 20's I actually got 2 speeding tickets on the same street, at the same spot, in the same week. But usually if we get a speeding ticket we are so careful to obey all the laws and speed limits while we are driving. Well, at least for a couple weeks, until the shock of getting a ticket wears off, then we go back to driving crazy. Even as kids, if we got in trouble for something, we usually tried to act like angels for a while, once again, until the punishment for what we did wore off.

Today's devotional in part of Psalm 78, includes how the children of Israel would go back and forth with God. They would do good, then they would mess up and God would have to deal with them. After they couldn't take the punishment any longer, they did good for a time and God would forgive them, but soon they would turn back to their old ways.

But we also know that God is quick to forgive, and slow to anger, full of compassion and love and grace and mercy, and that's why Israel is still here, because He loves them.

✠ **Psalm 78:38** *But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath;*

Sad to say, we do the same thing here in the USA. Just think of 911 and how the churches were packed for several weeks after that. But soon, people turned back to their old ways. Even now with the COVID-19, I think it's safe to say that God allowed it to happen, because nothing happens without God knowing and allowing it to happen. I will not get into if this is God's judgment or final warning, that may be for another Devo.

But when Covid hit and we were restricted to our homes, people were changing, and it's was a good change if you think about it. Families were actually eating together and talking more and even reading the bible and watching church online together. The interesting thing to see is what has happened now that it's all over, and how people have gone back to their old ways.

But not just to their old ways, think how much worse things have gotten since 911 and that everything has opened up again after the Covid-19 quarantine, with same sex marriages and homosexuality becoming a norm. Many states approving the use of marijuana. Look at the TV shows and movies and how perverted they have become. Or just look at the last few Super Bowl half time shows.

But if you read the Old Testament, Israel did the same thing, they got worse and worse each time. So I believe things will just get worse and worse here in the USA now that this (Covid-19 quarantine) is over. The only way it won't is if there is true repentance across the USA.

So, just like my example with getting a ticket, or a kid doing something wrong, or even 911. How sincere are the words of the people, versus a empty vow with no real meaning behind it? Our devotional verses show what Israel did and what we are doing here in the USA as well.

† **Psalm 78:36-37** *Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.*

As well as this Proverb

† **Proverbs 12:22** *Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.*

Se People changed during these times of tragedy, but they just spoke empty words, and when the dust (or virus) settled, then they went back to their old ways... and even worse then what they were before.

Have you gone back to your old ways since 911 or the covid quarantine, or were your words and prayers to God from your heart, and not just to get out of a bad situation?

† **Ephesians 5:6-7** *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.*