

KGW14 April 3-9

April 3 Su Reading 93 — Psalm 78:1-4, 16-28 — Providing for Ungrateful People

This is a long historical psalm that stresses how Israel was unfaithful to a faithful God while they were wandering in the wilderness between the Red Sea and the Promised Land. We will read the introduction and one section that shows God dealing with rebellious people.

A Maskil^[fn] of Asaph.

1 *Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!*
2 *I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
3 things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.*
4 *We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.*

16 *He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.*
17 *Yet they sinned still more against him,
rebellious against the Most High in the desert.*
18 *They tested God in their heart
by demanding the food they craved.*
19 *They spoke against God, saying,
"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"*
20 *He struck the rock so that water gushed out
and streams overflowed.*

*Can he also give bread
or provide meat for his people?"*
21 *Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath;
a fire was kindled against Jacob;
his anger rose against Israel,
22 because they did not believe in God
and did not trust his saving power.*
23 *Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
24 and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.*
25 *Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.*
26 *He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by his power he led out the south wind;
27 he rained meat on them like dust,
winged birds like the sand of the seas;
28 he let them fall in the midst of their camp,
all around their dwellings.*

ESV Footnote

(78:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term

Undeserved Grace — The purpose of this psalm is to remind “*the coming generation ... [about] the glorious deeds of the LORD*” (v. 4). Verses 16-28 show that God did three main things for Israel in the wilderness: He provided water from a rock and rained manna and meat from the sky. This certainly displayed the power of God. It also showed His consistency in that He continued providing manna for 40 years until the day they entered the Promised Land. There was one more thing it showed about God: His grace—Israel did not deserve it. They “*sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High ... They tested God in their heart ... They spoke against God...*” (vv. 17-19). God both provided for them and punished them. That sounds like being a good parent, doesn't it? Why did God punish them? It was “*because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power*” (v. 22). Lack of faith and trust still angers God today. It results in complaints and rebellion as it did with Israel. We are part of that “*coming generation*” (v. 4) that needs to learn faith and trust from these ancient lessons.

[Marvelous Grace \(Grace Greater Than Our Sin\) - YouTube](#)

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
freely bestowed on all who believe.
You that are longing to see his face,
will you this moment his grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.

— Julia Johnston (1849-1919)

April 4 M Reading 94 — Psalm 81:1-16 — Waiting for Submission

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith.^[fn] Of Asaph.

- 1 *Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!*
- 2 *Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.*
- 3 *Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.*
- 4 *For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule^[fn] of the God of Jacob.*
- 5 *He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over^[fn] the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:*
- 6 *“I relieved your^[fn] shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.*
- 7 *In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;*

8 *I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah*
Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
 9 *There shall be no strange god among you;*
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
 10 *I am the LORD your God,*
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
 11 *“But my people did not listen to my voice;*
Israel would not submit to me.
 12 *So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,*
to follow their own counsels.
 13 *Oh, that my people would listen to me,*
that Israel would walk in my ways!
 14 *I would soon subdue their enemies*
and turn my hand against their foes.
 15 *Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him,*
and their fate would last forever.
 16 *But he would feed you^[fn] with the finest of the wheat,*
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

ESV Footnotes

- (81:1) Probably a musical or liturgical term
- (81:4) Or *just decree*
- (81:5) Or *against*
- (81:6) Hebrew *his*; also next line
- (81:16) That is, Israel; Hebrew *him*

If Only... — This psalm pictures a generous God who is waiting for an obedient response from His people so He can pour out blessings on them. He longingly said, “*O Israel, if you would but listen to me!*” (v. 8), and “*Oh, that my people would listen to me...*” (v. 13). This word “*listen*” is referring to more than noticing God’s message, which is made clear at the end of verse 13: “*...that Israel would walk in my ways!*” God wanted to bless them but He was waiting for their positive response of obedience. Look at His generous invitation: “*Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it!*” (v. 10). That reminds me of a nest of baby birds when their mother brings food home. She doesn’t force-feed the backward chicks; it is the aggressive, eager ones that get the food. Which “chick” are you? Are you eager to receive what God wants to teach you? Are you also eager to “*walk in [His] ways*” in order to receive all the good things He has for you? Reading God’s Word should trigger an eagerness in our hearts to meet God’s challenges to obedience, so “*he would feed you ... and ... satisfy you*” (v. 16). That generous God is still waiting now.

[**I Sing the Mighty Power of God - YouTube**](#)

I sing the mighty power of God
 That makes the mountains rise.
 That spread the flowing seas abroad
 And built the lofty skies.
 I sing the wisdom that ordained
 The sun to rule the day.
 The moon shines full at His command,
 And all the stars obey.

 — Isaac Watts (1718)

A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath.

- 1 *It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;*
2 *to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,*
3 *to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.*
4 *For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*
- 5 *How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!*
6 *The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:*
7 *that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;*
8 *but you, O LORD, are on high forever.*
9 *For behold, your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.*
- 10 *But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over^[fn] me fresh oil.*
11 *My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.*
- 12 *The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*
13 *They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.*
14 *They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,*
15 *to declare that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

ESV Footnote

(92:10) Compare Syriac; the meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain

Fruitful Trees — This psalm worships God exuberantly for what He does in exalting righteous people: “*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name ... to declare your steadfast love ... and your faithfulness*” (vv. 1-2). The psalmist also praises Him for His “deep thoughts” (v. 5) and the fact that He exalts us (v. 10). That is honoring God. It also lifts up the soul of the one who worships: “*For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work ... I sing for joy*” (v. 4). Righteous people are compared to the permanence of trees that flourish (vv. 12-13), and that “*still bear fruit in old age*” (v. 14). I like that because it challenges me not to retire from serving the Lord and His people. Do you feel too old? You can still be useful for God. Even if we are bedridden, we can carry on a ministry of prayer for others. Grow into a majestic, enduring, fruitful tree! Don’t retire!

April 6 W Reading 96 — Psalm 93:1-5 — God Reigns

- 1 *The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*
- 2 *Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.*
- 3 *The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.*
- 4 *Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
the LORD on high is mighty!*
- 5 *Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house,
O LORD, forevermore.*

Kingly Qualities — This short psalm says a lot about God. First, He is majestic; He is pictured here as the King of the universe, sitting on His heavenly throne (v. 1). He is not just a king, but *the* King who rules over all He created. Secondly, He is mighty; this is shown by having “*strength as his belt*” (v. 1) and being “*mightier than the waves of the sea*” (v. 4). A storm at sea is a terrifying situation of extreme instability, but God is mightier than that. Psalm 107:29 says that “*He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed,*” which was demonstrated when Jesus stilled a storm with His rebuke (Luke 8:24). Whatever storm we find ourselves in, God is “*a shelter from the storm*” (Isa. 25:4). He is mighty. Thirdly, He is eternal: “*...you are from everlasting*” (Ps. 93:2). It is hard for us to imagine “time” before Creation, but God existed then; He has always been and He will continue to exist, along with us in heaven. The last verse about the trustworthiness of God’s decrees (His written laws) and the holiness of His house (the temple or His people) indirectly shows that God is also trustworthy and holy. His Word is trustworthy because He directed its writing; His temple or people are holy because of His presence. We trust in His Word and we worship in His company. God is majestic, mighty, eternal, trustworthy, and holy. Wow!

[How Majestic is Your Name - YouTube](#)

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

—Michael J. Smith (b. 1957)

April 7 Th Reading 97 — Psalm 102:11-28 — Eternal God

- 11 *My days are like an evening shadow;*

I wither away like grass.

- 12 *But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;
you are remembered throughout all generations.*
- 13 *You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it is the time to favor her;
the appointed time has come.*
- 14 *For your servants hold her stones dear
and have pity on her dust.*
- 15 *Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.*
- 16 *For the LORD builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory;*
- 17 *he regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.*
- 18 *Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:*
- 19 *that he looked down from his holy height;
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,*
- 20 *to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die,*
- 21 *that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,
and in Jerusalem his praise,*
- 22 *when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.*
- 23 *He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.*
- 24 *“O my God,” I say, “take me not away
in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure
throughout all generations!”*
- 25 *Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.*
- 26 *They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,*
- 27 *but you are the same, and your years have no end.*
- 28 *The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.*

Never Ending ... Never Changing — There are many contrasts in this psalm. The first one centers on time. On a human level, the psalmist regrets that God “*has shortened my days*” (v. 23), but on the divine level, His “*years endure throughout all generations!*” (v. 24). Noah lived 950 years (Gen. 9:29), Moses lived 120 years (Deut. 34:7), and the current life expectancy in the USA is now about 78 years. God *has* shortened our days, but He existed before the universe was created and He will continue to live throughout eternity. Quite a contrast! The second contrast centers on durability. God’s existence not only never ends, it also never changes. The physical universe “*will wear out like a garment*” (Ps. 102:26), but as for God, “*you are the same*” (v. 27). He “*is the same, yesterday and today and forever*” (Heb. 13:8, speaking of Jesus). God wasn’t different in the OT in comparison with

how He was in the NT. He never changes. He is not getting more patient or more impatient; He never changes. That is stability; that is permanence.

April 8 F Reading 98 — Psalm 103:1-22 — Bless the LORD

Of David.

¹ *Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

² *Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,*

³ *who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,*

⁴ *who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*

⁵ *who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

⁶ *The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.*

⁷ *He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.*

⁸ *The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

⁹ *He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

¹⁰ *He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

¹² *as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

¹³ *As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

¹⁴ *For he knows our frame,^[fn]
he remembers that we are dust.*

¹⁵ *As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;*

¹⁶ *for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

¹⁷ *But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,*

¹⁸ *to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.*

¹⁹ *The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

²⁰ *Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,*

obeying the voice of his word!
21 *Bless the LORD, all his hosts,*
his ministers, who do his will!
22 *Bless the LORD, all his works,*
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

ESV Footnote

(103:14) Or *knows how we are formed*

Concentrated Praise — David’s wonderful psalm of praise is filled with statements of both God’s attributes and His activities. His character is displayed, which includes being “*merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love*” (v. 8). What He does is expressed even more fully: He forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies, and renews (vv. 3-5); He protects with righteousness and justice, and He informs individuals of His ways (vv. 6-7); He forgives and shows compassion (vv. 12-13); He rules the universe (v. 19). This psalm is such a great summary of who God is and what He does that I was challenged to memorize it a few years ago, and I quote it at least once a week on long walks. I challenge you to memorize it as well because it will provide ready access to wonderful praise.

[Bless the Lord, O My Soul - YouTube](#)

<p>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! He has done great things, He has done great things, He has done great things, Bless his holy name!</p> <p>—Andrae Crouch (1973)</p>

Meditation: This psalm shows us that a prayer of Moses was answered. He prayed, “...*please show me now your ways...*” (Ex. 33:13). This psalm records the answer: “*He made known his ways to Moses...*” (Ps. 104:7). God’s “ways” include His motives, plans, and action—His mode of operation.

April 9 Sa Reading 99 — Psalm 104:1-35 — You Are Very Great

1 *Bless the LORD, O my soul!*
O LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
2 *covering yourself with light as with a garment,*
stretching out the heavens like a tent.
3 *He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;*
he makes the clouds his chariot;
he rides on the wings of the wind;
4 *he makes his messengers winds,*
his ministers a flaming fire.
5 *He set the earth on its foundations,*
so that it should never be moved.
6 *You covered it with the deep as with a garment;*

the waters stood above the mountains.
7 *At your rebuke they fled;*
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.
8 *The mountains rose, the valleys sank down*
to the place that you appointed for them.
9 *You set a boundary that they may not pass,*
so that they might not again cover the earth.

10 *You make springs gush forth in the valleys;*
they flow between the hills;
11 *they give drink to every beast of the field;*
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
12 *Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;*
they sing among the branches.
13 *From your lofty abode you water the mountains;*
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

14 *You cause the grass to grow for the livestock*
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
15 *and wine to gladden the heart of man,*
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

16 *The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,*
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
17 *In them the birds build their nests;*
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
18 *The high mountains are for the wild goats;*
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

19 *He made the moon to mark the seasons;^[fn]*
the sun knows its time for setting.
20 *You make darkness, and it is night,*
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
21 *The young lions roar for their prey,*
seeking their food from God.
22 *When the sun rises, they steal away*
and lie down in their dens.
23 *Man goes out to his work*
and to his labor until the evening.

24 *O LORD, how manifold are your works!*
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
25 *Here is the sea, great and wide,*
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
26 *There go the ships,*
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.^[fn]

27 *These all look to you,*

to give them their food in due season.
28 When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your Spirit,^[fn] they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works,
32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more!
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
Praise the LORD!

ESV Footnotes

(104:19) Or *the appointed times* (compare Genesis 1:14)

(104:26) Or *you formed to play with*

(104:30) Or *breath*

The Joy of Creation — This psalm begins and ends with the same expression that starts and ends the previous psalm: “*Bless the LORD, O my soul!*” Both psalms are filled with joy in what God has done—the relationship He established with mankind (Ps. 103) and God’s care for the world He created (Ps. 104). It brings us joy to see God’s amazing creation: “*I rejoice in the LORD*” (v. 34). The psalmist declares that even God rejoices in it: “*...may the LORD rejoice in his works*” (v. 31). Scientists are also amazed when they see the wonder of creation, but most of them look for ways to explain how it might have happened without a Creator. What a shame! They are missing out on the joy.