**A PRAYER from Psalm 78 adapted and personalized for Baptist spiritual workers**

**PSALM 78 A CHURCH PLANTER’S COMMITMENT**

*(((only vvs 1-8 have been adapted and personalized)))*

**Psa 78:1** Listen, my young Baptist evangelists, to my teaching, and pay attention to what I say.

Psa 78:2 I am going to use wise sayings and explain mysteries from the past,

Psa 78:3 things we have heard and known, things that our ancestors told us.

Psa 78:4 We will not keep them from our children; we will plant churches and tell the next generation about the Almighty LORD's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done.

Psa 78:5 He gave laws to the people of Israel and commandments to us young Baptists the spiritual descendants of Jacob. He instructed our ancestors to teach his laws to their children and they started many churches,

Psa 78:6 so that the next generation might learn these truths and in turn plant more new churches to tell their children.

Psa 78:7 With more new churches future generations also will put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments.

Psa 78:8 With more new churches they will not be like their ancestors, a rebellious and disobedient people, whose trust in God was never firm but only religious consent, and who did not remain faithful to him.

Psa 78:9 Look at Jewish history: The Ephraimites, armed with bows and arrows, ran away on the day of battle.

Psa 78:10 They did not keep their covenant with God; they refused to obey his law.

Psa 78:11 They forgot what he had done, the miracles they had seen him perform.

Psa 78:12 While their ancestors watched, God performed miracles in the plain of Zoan in the land of Egypt.

Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and took them through it; he made the waters stand like walls.

Psa 78:14 By day he led them with a cloud and all night long with the light of a fire.

Psa 78:15 He split rocks open in the desert and gave them water from the depths.

Psa 78:16 He caused a stream to come out of the rock and made water flow like a river.

Psa 78:17 But they continued to sin against God, and in the desert they rebelled against the Most High.

Psa 78:18 They deliberately put God to the test by demanding the food they wanted.

Psa 78:19 They spoke against God and said, "Can God supply food in the desert?

Psa 78:20 It is true that he struck the rock, and water flowed out in a torrent; but can he also provide us with bread and give his people meat?"

Psa 78:21 And so the LORD was angry when he heard them; he attacked his people with fire, and his anger against them grew,

Psa 78:22 because they had no faith in him and did not believe that he would save them.

Psa 78:23 But he spoke to the sky above and commanded its doors to open;

Psa 78:24 he gave them grain from heaven, by sending down manna for them to eat.

Psa 78:25 So they ate the food of angels, and God gave them all they wanted.

Psa 78:26 He also caused the east wind to blow, and by his power he stirred up the south wind;

Psa 78:27 and to his people he sent down birds, as many as the grains of sand on the shore;

Psa 78:28 they fell in the middle of the camp all around the tents.

Psa 78:29 So the people ate and were satisfied; God gave them what they wanted.

Psa 78:30 But they had not yet satisfied their craving and were still eating,

Psa 78:31 when God became angry with them and killed their strongest men, the best young men of Israel.

Psa 78:32 In spite of all this the people kept sinning; in spite of his miracles they did not trust him.

Psa 78:33 So he ended their days like a breath and their lives with sudden disaster.

Psa 78:34 Whenever he killed some of them, the rest would turn to him; they would repent and pray earnestly to him.

Psa 78:35 They remembered that God was their protector, that the Almighty came to their aid.

Psa 78:36 But their words were all lies; nothing they said was sincere.

Psa 78:37 They were not loyal to him; they were not faithful to their covenant with him.

Psa 78:38 But God was merciful to his people. He forgave their sin and did not destroy them. Many times he held back his anger and restrained his fury.

Psa 78:39 He remembered that they were only mortal beings, like a wind that blows by and is gone.

Psa 78:40 How often they rebelled against him in the desert; how many times they made him sad!

Psa 78:41 Again and again they put God to the test and brought pain to the Holy God of Israel.

Psa 78:42 They forgot his great power and the day when he saved them from their enemies

Psa 78:43 and performed his mighty acts and miracles in the plain of Zoan in the land of Egypt.

Psa 78:44 He turned the rivers into blood, and the Egyptians had no water to drink.

Psa 78:45 He sent flies among them, that tormented them, and frogs that ruined their land.

Psa 78:46 He sent locusts to eat their crops and to destroy their fields.

Psa 78:47 He killed their grapevines with hail and their fig trees with frost.

Psa 78:48 He killed their cattle with hail and their flocks with lightning.

Psa 78:49 He caused them great distress by pouring out his anger and fierce rage, which came as messengers of death.

Psa 78:50 He did not restrain his anger or spare their lives, but killed them with a plague.

Psa 78:51 He killed the first-born sons of all the families of Egypt.

Psa 78:52 Then he led his people out like a shepherd and guided them through the desert.

Psa 78:53 He led them safely, and they were not afraid; but the sea came rolling over their enemies.

Psa 78:54 He brought them to his holy land, to the mountains which he himself conquered.

Psa 78:55 He drove out the inhabitants as his people advanced; he divided their land among the tribes of Israel and gave their homes to his people.

Psa 78:56 But they rebelled against Almighty God and put him to the test. They did not obey his commandments,

Psa 78:57 but were rebellious and disloyal like their ancestors, unreliable as a crooked arrow.

Psa 78:58 They angered him with their heathen places of worship, and with their idols they made him furious.

Psa 78:59 God was angry when he saw it, so he rejected his people completely.

Psa 78:60 He abandoned his tent in Shiloh, the home where he had lived among us.

Psa 78:61 He allowed our enemies to capture the Covenant Box, the symbol of his power and glory.

Psa 78:62 He was angry with his own people and let them be killed by their enemies.

Psa 78:63 Young men were killed in war, and young women had no one to marry.

Psa 78:64 Priests died by violence, and their widows were not allowed to mourn.

Psa 78:65 At last the Lord woke up as though from sleep; he was like a strong man excited by wine.

Psa 78:66 He drove his enemies back in lasting and shameful defeat.

Psa 78:67 But he rejected the descendants of Joseph; he did not select the tribe of Ephraim.

Psa 78:68 Instead he chose the tribe of Judah and Mount Zion, which he dearly loves.

Psa 78:69 There he built his Temple like his home in heaven; he made it firm like the earth itself, secure for all time.

Psa 78:70 He chose his servant David; he took him from the pastures,

Psa 78:71 where he looked after his flocks, and he made him king of Israel, the shepherd of the people of God.

Psa 78:72 David took care of them with unselfish devotion and led them with skill.