

78:65-72

**INTERPRETING THE POETRY**

3. How should we understand verse 65; literally, as metaphor, simile or typo?

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4. What is the point of the “word picture” in verse 65?

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5. What are the particular applications for this Psalm today?

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# SINGING THE PSALMS



## THE PSALMS IN HISTORY

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col 3:16)

# Singing the Psalms - Psalms in History

## WHEN THEY WERE WRITTEN

Historically the Psalms cover a period of about 1000 years, from the time of Moses (ca. 1400 B.C.) to the Israelites' return from exile (ca. 450 B.C.)

Not all the titles contain information about authorship. The ones that do refer to the 5 following writers. Moses wrote Psalm 90. David composed 73-80 Psalms, mostly in the first two books of the Psalter (i.e. Ps 1—72). Asaph wrote 12 (Ps 50, 73—83). Korah's descendants were responsible for 10 (Ps 42, 44—49, 84, 87—88). Solomon wrote one or two (127 and perhaps 72). Heman the Ezrahite wrote one (Ps 88). Ethan the Ezrahite composed one (Ps 89).

## HOW THEY WERE USED

Psalms have always been an important part of the life of worship and devotion for the people of God. They were, and still are, used in Israel to teach the children the history of the People of God.



The Psalms as poetry are memorable and often linked to specific events in history making them a valuable learning tool.

## CONTEXT

Before applying a Psalm randomly to ourselves, it is useful to know the context in which it was originally written.

Knowing the events surrounding a Psalm helps in understanding the meaning, purpose and application of a Psalm.

## PSALM 78

1. What type of Psalm is this?

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2. What is the Psalm about and what is the Authors Purpose?

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Moving through the Psalm, note the main point in each section.

**78:9-11**

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**78:12-20**

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**78:21-33**

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**78:34-39**

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**78:40-55**

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**78:56-64**

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