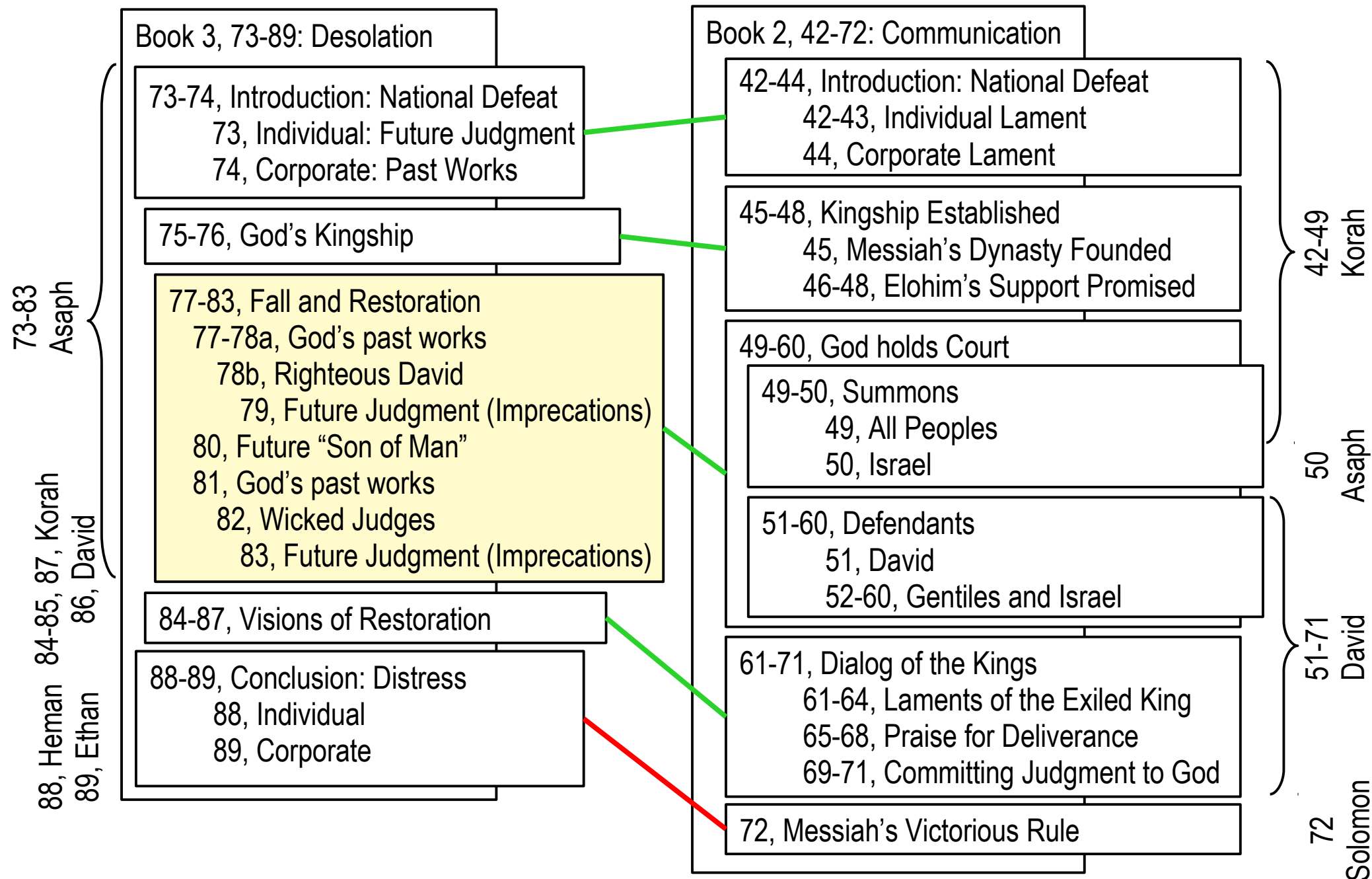


Treasure Hunt

- What three themes from Psalms 73-76 are repeated in 77-83?
- How do pronouns mark the two parts of Psalm 77?
- What does Asaph remember in each half of this Psalm?
- Contrast the effect of Asaph's focus on theology with his focus on God's acts.
- Where does Asaph get the pattern for Psalm 78?
- What do we learn from the omission of the petition in the second panel of Psalm 78 (and in the underlying pattern)?
- What is Asaph saying about David by using this pattern?
- What goes wrong with remembering in Psalm 77? in Psalm 78?

Book 3: Desolation



Structure of Psalm 77

Psalm 77, Remember What?

1-9, Asaph's **Infirmity** (I)

1-3, experience: "my **hand**"

Selah

4-9, questioning analysis of
God's words

Selah

10, Hinge

10a, my **infirmity**

10b, the years of God's

right hand

11-20, God's **Right Hand** (thou)

11-15, questioning analysis
of God's actions

Selah

16-20, experience: "**hand** of
Moses and Aaron"

Ps 77:7-9 and Exod 34:6-7

Exodus 34	Psalm 77
<p>6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful רחום and gracious חנון, longsuffering אף, and abundant in goodness טוה and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands [of generations], forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.</p>	<p>7 Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? 8 Is his mercy TON clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? 9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious חנון? hath he in anger אף shut up his tender mercies רחם?</p>

Structure of Psalm 78

Psalm 78, Forgetting God's Ways

1-11, Purpose ("fathers," "mighty works")

1-4, Invitation to **remember**

5-7, Command **not to forget**

8-11, Failure: **"they ... forgot"**

12-39, First Cycle: Wilderness

12-16, Gracious Acts

17-20, Rebellion

21-33, Divine Wrath & Punishment

34-35, Petition: **"they remembered"**

36-37, Rebuke

38-39, Restoration: **"he remembered"**

40-72, Second Cycle: Egypt & Canaan

40-55, Gracious Acts: **"they remembered not"**

56-58, Rebellion

59-64, Divine Wrath & Punishment

65-72, Restoration

Cycles of Blessing and Discipline

	Judges							Psalm 78	
Stage	2:11-19 summary	3:7-11	3:12-30	4:1-5:31	6:1-8:28	10:6-12:7	13:1-15:20	12-39	42-72
Gracious Acts	Book of Joshua							12-16	42-55
Rebellion	11-12	7	12	1	1	6	1	17-20	56-58
Anger & Judgment	14-15	8	12-14	2	1-6	7-9	1	21-33	59-64
Petition	18	9	15	3	6	10		34-35	
Rebuke					7-10	11-16		36-37	
Restoration	16-19	9-11 Othniel	15-30 Ehud	4:4-5:31 Deborah	11-8:28 Gideon	17-12:7 Jephthah	2-16:31 Samson	38-39	65-72 David

The Contrast in Psalm 77

Ps 77	1-9 (esp. 7-9): theological questioning leads to despair	11-20: focus on God's mighty acts brings confidence
1 Ti 6	1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness ; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words , whereof cometh envy, strife , railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness : from such withdraw thyself.	6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.
2 Ti 2	23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes .	22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.