

Psalm 81 A Psalm of Asaph

¹ All of you Jews, sing joyfully to the God of Israel, for He is our strength. ² Raise your voices in song accompanied by the sweet sound of stringed instruments. ³ When the moon is full, blow the trumpet to announce the feast of the new moon. ⁴ Celebrate it with gusto because observing this special day is an ordinance in Israel. ⁵ God established this feast day as a testimony to the way He had the death angel go through Egypt to kill the firstborn of each family not under the blood¹. This prompted Pharaoh to release the children of Israel from bondage. even though the language of the Egyptians was unintelligible.

The LORD said,

⁶ “Israel, I led you out of Egypt so that you would no longer labor under the burden of making bricks. ⁷ In your distress you called out to Me for help and deliverance. I heard your cry from the secret place of my dwelling, and I answered you by delivering you from Pharaoh. Once you were on your way to the promised land I tested you by withholding water to see if you would trust Me to provide. You wouldn’t trust Me, but I provided water for you anyway.”

Folks, stop what you are doing and ponder the significance of what I just shared with you. Call out to the LORD for help, and don’t be unbelieving.

⁸ “Hear me, My people Israel! If you will listen, I will testify about the rebellion of your fathers. ⁹ I told your fathers then, and I tell you now, don’t worship any foreign God. ¹⁰ I am the God who brought you out of Egypt, and I am the only God powerful enough to do so. I offered to fill their mouths with good things, ¹¹ but My people turned a deaf ear and refused to obey Me. ¹² Therefore, I stepped away and let them practice their sin in the stubborn unbelief even though I knew it was to their own detriment.

¹³ Oh how much I wish My people would listen to Me and walk in My ways! ¹⁴ I would quickly be their defender and subdue their enemies. ¹⁵ Those enemies would pretend to obey even though they hate Me. Their fate would still be eternal punishment even though they feign obedience. ¹⁶ Enough about them. If My people would love and serve Me I would pour out My richest blessing upon them. I would feed them with the finest bread and satisfy them with the sweetness of the best honey.

¹ Peter A. Steveson, *Psalms*, © BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, pg. 318