

## ***Psalm 81***

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- A Psalm of Asaph. Recited during the feast of trumpets, New Year / Rosh Hashanah.

V: 1-5 Sing aloud to God, acknowledging that He is our strength.

**Psalm 27:1** “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

- Celebrate, rejoice, sing to the Lord with your voices, play upon the various instruments a joyful song - get excited!

**Psalm 100:4** “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

- This is a statute or law in Israel; it was established in Joseph, when Israel was in Egypt.
- Looking back at their history, God has indeed done many mighty works.

V: 6-7 God delivered them from their bondage in Egypt where they were slaves. He brought them out with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

- They cried out to Him, and He sent Moses, He heard their cry.

**Exodus 3:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

- The secret place of thunder:

**Exodus 20:18** “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.”

- They heard the thunder, but they weren't allowed to go up into the mountain, only Moses, and at times Joshua and Aaron, but not the people or the priests.

<sup>7b</sup>Testing at the waters of Meribah:

- On two different occasions the children of Israel were at a place of being out of water and complaining bitterly of their thirst. On the second occasion, Moses wasn't at the top of his game and he ended up yelling at the people in anger and

striking the rock to bring forth the water. The Lord used this to test the people, to help them, and Moses see what was in their heart.

Paul would go on to explain that, that Rock was Christ:

**1 Corinthians 10:4** "... For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."

It would appear that God is speaking:

V: 8-9 Hear Me, listen up! Admonish, testify, warning: You've got to get rid of the foreign gods.

**Matthew 6:24** "For no man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

- Asaph is looking back, God had blessed and prospered the nation: they had subdued their enemies, they were wealthy. During the reign of Solomon, silver was as common as rocks in Jerusalem - they began to worship material things and eventually fell into total idolatry - led in fact by Solomon. Later they were conquered as a result of their idolatry and turning away from God.

V: 10 God has taken care of them in the past, bringing them out of Egypt, and He will take care of their present and future needs, He will fill their mouths.

- God is calling them to find their satisfaction and contentment in Him. He's saying that in your love for me, in our relationship with God - that is where we are going to be satisfied, and it's really the only place where we'll be satisfied.

**1 Timothy 6:6** "Now godliness with contentment is great gain."

V: 11-14 This is a lament, a mournful utterance. "But you wouldn't do that ..."

- They wouldn't listen, they rejected Him - so God gave them over to their own lusts.
- He would have subdued their enemies and given them the victory - they wouldn't be captives right now, but they turned away from Him.
- Sadly this wasn't the first time, and it wouldn't be the last:

We're reminded of Jesus' lamentation:

**Matthew 23:37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

V: 15 “Hater’s of the Yahweh” - He’s saying that those who pretend submission, those who give the outward appearance, but who really aren’t submitted to God hate Him.

**Mark 7:6-9** “<sup>6</sup>... well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. <sup>7</sup>And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” <sup>8</sup>For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

- Their fate will endure forever - in the flames of hell.

V: 16 Again the lament, He would have fed them, satisfied them, blessed them.

- He weeps over their lost opportunity, over their refusal to allow the Lord to do for them those things that He was wanting to do for them. They wouldn’t listen to God. The end result is that instead of victory, they’re defeated and led away captive, slaves to sin.

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## ***Psalm 82***

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V: 1-2 God is standing in the midst of the congregation of the mighty, He’s judging the “gods” or the earthly judges, those who have the power of life and death among men.

- A vivid reminder that the judges of the earth are not “supreme,” they will be held accountable.
- They stand accused by God of being un-just and biased. This is all a little too familiar.

V: 3-4 God takes up the cause of the poor and needy, the fatherless, widows - He intends for us to do the same.

**Micah 6:8** “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

**James 1:27** “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

V: 5 As the judicial system fails, where there is no justice - it becomes anarchy - the foundations of the earth becoming unstable.

V: 6-7 You are “gods” or “judges” - but you are just men, children of the Most High - and you will die like men, and yourself be judged.

**Hebrews 9:27** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

V: 8 A plea for justice, arise O God - the only true God, the righteous judge of all the earth.

- Come quickly Lord Jesus!

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## ***Psalm 83***

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- This is the last of the Psalms that are identified with Asaph.

V: 1 God: **Elohim**. God: **EI** V: 18 LORD: **Yahweh** / Jehovah Most High: **Elyon**.

V: 1-5 This is Asaph’s call to action. The nation is facing danger and destruction and Asaph is calling out to God not to let that happen.

- It was true then, and sadly it is just as true today. Israel faces many enemies who have taken “crafty counsel” together. They have sought to de-legitimize Israel as a nation. They have sought to harm Israel through the BDS movement (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) - and many denominations & churches in America have participated in this. They have removed Israel from their maps as a prelude to their non-existence.
- We also see the various countries that support the military overthrow of the nation of Israel - but you’ve probably heard that slogan in Israel “Attack us again, we need the land!”

Warning:

**Zechariah 2:8** “For thus says the Lord of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.”

- They have formed confederacies in the past, they are forming them now, and the Bible describes how they will form one in the future in Ezekiel 38 & 39, but it will lead to their destruction as God intervenes on Israel's behalf, again.

**Genesis 12:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

#### V: 6-8 A listing of those enemies, 10 in all.

1. Edom - Edomites / Idumean's, the descendants of Esau, enemies of Israel. Herod's were Idumean.
2. Ishmaelites: descendants of Abraham, sons of the flesh - Arabic nations.
3. Moab / Moabites: descendants of Lot via his incestuous relationship with his eldest surviving daughter.
4. Hagrites: Possibly related to the descendants of Hagar, Sarah's hand maid, the mother of Ishmael.
5. Gebal
6. Ammon / Ammonites: descendants of Lot from his youngest daughter.
7. Amalek, the Amalekites who attacked Israel as they departed Egypt (grandson of Esau)
8. Philistia / Philistines.
9. Tyre. Typically friendly to Israel (David & Solomon) - but apparently not always.
10. Assyrians.
11. Children of Lot (repeat).

Another confederation of 10:

**Revelation 12:3** “And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems / crowns on his heads.”

#### V: 9-12 Kind of a who's who of who God defeated on Israel's behalf.

- The prayer: deal with them as with the Midianites, as in the book of Judges when God used Gideon and his 300 men to wipe out the Midianite Army.
- **Judges Ch. 4:** Sisera was the commander of the army of Hazor to fight against Israel.
- Sisera brought 900 chariots with him. Barak was a leader of Israel's army, and Deborah encouraged him to go out in the name of the Lord, but he refused unless Deborah went with him. She said ok, but the victory will go to a woman!

- Sisera and his army ended up fleeing after getting bogged down in the marshes in the Valley of Megiddo and his men were wiped out. Jael did him in with a tent stake.
- Jabin was the king of Canaan - God defeated them both on Israel's behalf. This happened at "En-dor" which is at the base of Mt. Tabor.
- He made himself useful; he became like "refuse" or KJV "dung" meaning fertilizer.
- <sup>11</sup>Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah, and Zalmunna - were all leaders, princes of the Midianites who were killed by Gideon.
- They said <sup>12</sup>Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession."
- They boasted that they would take the land, instead they became part of the land - fertilizer to be exact.

V: 13-17 Get em Lord! May they be like dust / ashes caught up in a whirlwind, like the "dust devils" in the dessert.

- May they be wiped out, like when a fire goes through a forrest.

V: 18 That they may know You, that they may know your name, you are the Lord Jehovah, Yahweh - the Most High (Elyon) over all the earth!