

## Psalm 81

1 To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of Asaph. Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. 2 Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. 3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. 4 For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. 5 This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not.

6 I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots. 7 Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. Selah.

8 Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me; 9 There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. 10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. 12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

13 Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

14 I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. 15 The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever. 16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

## Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" – could be "Jeduthun" (see Ps. 77).
2. "upon Gittith" (3 times) meaning "the winepress" – a reference to the Feast of the Tabernacles (harvest time; public worship) (Ps. 8, 81, 84).
3. "A Psalm of Asaph" (9<sup>th</sup> in the Book 3 (Pss.73-89), Asaphic Collection.
4. This Psalm has two main divisions: The Festive Hymn (vv.1-5) and the Oracle of the LORD (vv.6-16).

## Outline:

- I. Festive Hymn (vv.1-5)
- II. Oracle of the LORD (vv.6-16)
  - A. God's past care (vv.6-7)
  - B. Exhortation to listen (vv.8-10)
  - C. God's judgment on rebellious Israel (vv.11-12)
  - B.' Exhortation to listen (v.13)
  - A.' God's future care (vv.14-16)

## Observations:

1. The Feast of the LORD (rejoicing). (vv.1-5).
2. The request (vv.1-3) – People, Levites, and Priests.
3. The reason (vv.4-5) – Statue, Law, Testimony.
4. (vv.6-10) The LORD's compassion and covenant – Delivered them from Egypt, Answered their prayers, made a covenant with them, promised them provisions.
5. The failure of Israel to live up to their responsibilities (vv.11-13) – God wants them to hearken (to listen) - - HEAR (Shema – Deut. 5:1; 6:4ff). How many blessings do we miss out on because we do not listen to God?
6. Results of hearing or listening to God (vv.14-16) – Subjection of enemies and satisfaction and blessings.

Lesson: God's people ought to listen to Him.