

Psalm 81 God's Desire to Care for His People

To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of Asaph.

1 Sing aloud to **God our strength**; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. 2 Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute. 3 Blow the trumpet at the time of the **New Moon**, At the full moon, on our solemn feast day. 4 For this is a statute for Israel, A law of the God of Jacob. 5 This He established in Joseph as a testimony, When He went throughout the land of Egypt, **Where I heard a language I did not understand.** 6 **"I removed** his shoulder from **the burden**; His hands were freed from the baskets. 7 You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. **Selah** 8 "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! 9 There shall be **no foreign god among you**; Nor shall you worship any foreign god. 10 **I am the Lord your God**, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. 11 "But **My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me.** 12 So I **gave them over** to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels. 13 "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways! 14 I would soon subdue their enemies, And turn My hand against their adversaries. 15 The haters of the Lord would pretend submission to Him, But their fate would endure forever. 16 He **would have** fed them also with the finest of wheat; And **with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you."**

- **Asaph**

Psalm 81 read to begin Jewish Fall Harvest Celebration to **El Sali**
God our Strength...The LORD my Rock

- **Vv 1-3** New Moon Celebration September/October

On the new moon, the first day of the seventh month, was kept a great festival called the **Feast of Trumpets**... The tenth of the same month was the great **Day of Atonement**; and on the fifteenth was celebrated the **Feast of Tabernacles**." [Horne]

- Musical instruments for praise/Trumpet for calling together

1. **V 1** Call to entire Congregation
2. **V 2** Call to Levites. Appointed singers/musicians
3. **V 3** Call to priests who **blow the trumpet to begin the Holy Month**

- **Vv 4-7 Reason for Celebration**

1. **Giving of Law:** Societal, Moral, Ceremonial
2. **Deliverance:** Bondage in Egypt to Freedom of Promised Land

- **Vv 8-10 These were My simple instructions...**

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. [c.f. Deut. 5:7,32:12]

I am the Lord your God...The One who brought you out of Egypt
IOWs Dance with the One who brung ya

- **Vv 11-12**

1. My people would not listen
2. I gave them over to themselves...

Isaiah 50:11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who **encircle yourselves** with sparks: Walk in the **light of your fire** and in the **sparks you have kindled**— This you shall have from My hand: You shall **lie down in torment**.

Because Israel would have none of Me...I gave her over to what she craved

- **Back** to languages they didn't understand

1. Assyria/Babylon
2. Dispersed throughout world

- **Vv 13-15** God's Desire to Care for to His People

Oh that My people would Listen to Me...Walk with Me!

- **V16**

Matthew 23:37b...How often I wanted to gather your children together, **as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!**

Deuteronomy 5:29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it **might be well with them and with their children forever!**

Isaiah 48:18 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! **Then your peace would have been like a river...**

Psalms 103:5 [David. God is the One] Who satisfies your mouth **with good things**, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

God's Desire to Care for His People?
Not just water but **honey from the rocks...**

Deuteronomy 32:13 [God] made [His people to] ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock;14 Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes. 15 **"But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick**, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

- **Regret:** What could have been had we had trusted God's goodness/Bigness
- **Hope?** Repent/Be Refreshed
- **Psalms 81:** God's desire to care for His people

Psalm 82 A Plea for Justice

A Psalm of Asaph.

1 God stands in the congregation of the mighty; **He judges among the gods.** 2 How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? **Selah** 3 Defend

the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. 4 Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked. 5 They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable. 6 I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. 7 But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

- **Asaph**
- **V1** God stands in the congregation/Judging among the gods
- **gods:** heb. *el-o-heem'* Rulers/Judges/Divine Representatives

With great power there must also come great responsibility

- God grants humans authority/responsibility to govern other humans beings

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the [civil] **authorities that exist are appointed by God.** 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

- Jesus ascribes this term *gods* to **those given the Word of God to judge/govern**

John 10:33b..."For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, **make Yourself God.**" 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, **"You are gods"** ' ? 35 If He called them gods, **to whom the word of God came** (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, '**I am the Son of God**'?"

God will judge those given Responsibility/Authority/Power to...
Make Spiritual Rulings based on the Word of God they Received

James 3:1 ...let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive **a stricter judgment.**

Pastors, Elders, Teachers **will stand** before God
Pastors, Elders, Teachers **do stand** before God

- **V1** God stands in the midst of the congregations

Revelation 1:12 Then I [John] turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and **in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the **seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.**

Spiritual Leaders must remember Jesus stands among us...

1 Peter 4:17 ...the time has come for judgment to **begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

It is right for judgment to begin at the house of God. "There is equity in it; for Christians profess to be better than others, and **so they ought to be**. They say they are regenerate, so they **ought to be regenerate**. They say that they are a holy people, separated unto Christ; so they **ought to be holy**, and separate from sinners, as he was." [Spurgeon]

- **V2 Gods charge against those in charge:** Favoritism/People pleasing

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, **with partiality**. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 **have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?**

God demands absolute impartial judging for all

Leviticus 19:15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. **You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty**. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

- **Vv 3-4** Instructions to overhaul system

Judge in Righteousness: Punish the guilty/Protect the innocent
This is what a Healthy Society looks like...But how important is that?

- **V 5 A. Foundations** of society depend on Righteous Rulings [or society is unstable]

Psalms 11:3 **If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?**

What ever happened to the concept of being a public servant?

Matthew 20:26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant**.

- **V 6-7**

I gave you authority to judge like gods...But you shall die like men

- **Call to the Only qualified Judge...**

Arise O God judge the earth...For You shall inherit all nations

Psalm 83 Imminent War

A Song. A Psalm of Asaph. US attack in Yemen/Red Sea on terrorist Iran-backed Houthis **as we speak**

1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! 2 For behold, Your **enemies make a tumult**; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. 3 They have taken **crafty counsel** against Your people, And consulted

together against Your sheltered ones. 4 They have said, **"Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."** 5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. **Selah** 9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera, As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon, 10 Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth. 11 Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, 12 Who said, **"Let us take for ourselves The pastures of God for a possession."** 13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind! 14 As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire, 15 So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm. 16 Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O Lord. 17 Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, 18 That they may know that You, **whose name alone is the Lord,** Are the Most High over all the earth.

- **Asaph:** Future Prophetic
- **Vv 1-12 Next Israeli war:** Surrounding Nations conspire/attack together

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you...

Let us cut them off from being a nation?

Advice: Don't mess with Israel's Borders. The Land belongs to God...

Leviticus 25:23 The land shall not be sold permanently, **for the land is Mine...**

Joel 3:2b... [I will judge the nations] **They have also divided up My land.**

Zephaniah 2:8 "I have heard the reproach of Moab, And the insults of the people of Ammon, With which they have reproached My people, And **made arrogant threats against their borders.** 9 Therefore, as I live," Says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "Surely Moab shall be like Sodom, And the people of Ammon like Gomorrah— Overrun with weeds and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation [lit. permanent ruin]. The residue of My people shall plunder them, And the remnant of My people shall possess them."

- **How will we know Psalm 83 is happening?** Damascus leveled

Isaiah 17:1 The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap. Woe to the multitude of many people Who make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! **...13** The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. **14** Then behold, at eventide, trouble! And before the morning, he is no more. This is the portion of those who plunder us, And the lot of those who rob us.

- **Vv 13-17** Call for the Lord to Judge those who seek to divide the land...

Psalm 59:13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, That they may not be; And let them know that God rules **in Jacob To the ends of the earth. Selah**

- **v18**

That they may know that You whose name alone is the Lord
Are the Most High over all the earth

Psalm 84 Dwelling with God

To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

1 How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young— Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God. 4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. **Selah** 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, **Whose heart is set on pilgrimage**. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion. 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! **Selah** 9 O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. 12 O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

- **Sons of Korah**
- **Vv 1-4** Longing for our Eternal Home

Psalm 27:4 [David] One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That **I may dwell in the house of the Lord** All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 42:1 [Sons of Korah] As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 65:4 [David] Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he **may dwell in Your courts**. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house...Of Your holy temple.

- **Vv 5-8**

We find Strength as we Set our Hearts on Pilgrimage IOWs
Realize we are Just Passing Through...

1 Chronicles 29:15 For **we are aliens and pilgrims before You**, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope.

Hebrews 11:13 [Heroes of faith re. God's promises] ...having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were **strangers/pilgrims on the earth**.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as **sojourners and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Leviticus 25:23b [God speaking] ... you are **strangers and sojourners with Me.**

- **Vv 7-9** We go from strength to strength as we set our hearts above

Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above,** where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

- **10-11**

1. **v 10 A day in the presence of God:** Greatest thing I could hope for
2. **v 10 Doorkeeper:**

Just to be with You

- **v 11 God is a sun:** God is Light. Eternal perspective; Light at end of tunnel...

Isaiah 60:19 "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give **light to you;** But the Lord will be to you an **everlasting light,** And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For **the Lord will be your everlasting light,** And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the **glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.**

- **V 11 God is a shield:** Protector from harm

Psalm 46:4 [Shield from harm] There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; **God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.**

- **Vv 11-12 The Lord gives grace and glory...**

**God keeps nothing good from the Righteous
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him in that!**

Psalm 85 Restore Favor to the Land

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

1 Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. **Selah** 3 You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. 4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease. 5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? 6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? 7 Show us Your mercy, Lord, And grant us Your salvation. 8 I will hear what God the Lord will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. 9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. 10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. 11 Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall

look down from heaven. 12 Yes, the Lord will give what is good; And our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before Him, **And shall make His footsteps our pathway.**

These Psalms include verses that express highest praise and devotion to the Lord. While other verses provide images of deep humility and recognition of our frail humanity before a Holy God.

- **Sons of Korah:**

Who are the Sons of Korah? Who is Korah?

- **Jude 1:11** Warning against self-appointed heretics coming against church leadership
- **Jude speaking** of Korah's Rebellion during time of Moses
 1. **Korah:** Overseer of Tabernacle/Discontent Guy. Desired to be a priest
 2. **Accusation** against Moses/Aaron: All of us are as holy as you
 3. **Rebellion:** Korah/Followers rise up against Moses/Aaron's leadership

Numbers 16:11 ...it is **against the Lord** that you/all your followers have banded together

4. **Moses challenge:** Call your followers tomorrow morning to offer incense
5. **Moment of Truth:** 250 along w/ Korah arrive with incense...

Number 16:28 And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. 29 **If these men die naturally like all men**, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, **then the Lord has not sent me.** 30 But if the Lord creates a new thing, and the **earth opens its mouth and swallows them up** with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, **then you will understand that these men have rejected the Lord.**" [Step away from Korah's tent] 31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. 33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. 34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"

Korah's Descendant Doomed Forever? No reputation. No Redemption?

That's not our God...

- **7 Generations** after rebellion **Samuel arises from Korah's line.** 1 Chron.6:31-38
- **Later Doorkeepers in Temple** 1 Chron.9:19-21; 1 Chron. 2
- **Joins w/David** in military exploits/Reputation of **expert warriors** 1 Chron.12:6
- **Became leaders** in choral and orchestral music in the tabernacle
- **Penned Psalms** 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, 87 and 88.

We do not have to live under the dark cloud of the sin of our forefathers

God has the power to break the hold

- Back to Psalm 85. One of Eleven Psalms written by these overcomers
- **Vv1-7 Theme?** Israel is back in the land... **Now what?**

There seems to be some question regarding the people who returned from Babylon after captivity and their dedication to the Lord and His current plan. [NJC]

- God promised both **Captivity/Return**

Jeremiah 30:18...I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain **according to its own plan.**

Jeremiah 31:23 ...They shall again use this speech [say this] in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: 'The Lord bless you, O home of justice, and mountain of holiness!'

- Now they are back after 70 years of captivity...

**The Psalmist sees this as a rubber meets the road moment
Will they display True Repentance or regress?**

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness **to those who have been trained by it.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 For **godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted [turned back on]...

- **Vv8-11** I know God will do His part/Not sure about us...
- Must be a collaborative project. God says-We do
 1. **Peace offered** ...as we refrain from foolishness
 2. **Salvation offered** ...as we fear Him
 3. **Mercy is offered** ...as we live/act in Truth.
 4. **Peace is offered** ...as we walk in Righteousness

v11 Truth shall spring out of the Earth/Righteousness from Heaven
Even as man/God walk together in unity, that is **God says-We do**

- **V12**

God sets before us the righteous path of His perfect but...
We must choose daily to walk in those steps

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**