

‡ THE LAST RESORT:

Δ The children of Israel appear to have turned to the Lord in their frustration as a last resort (vss. 7-10).

- » What does it say about God that He would even listen to them?
- » There is no mention of repentance, or a return to faithfulness. Does God still act this way today? Does this make Him a hopeless pushover?

Δ 8 He sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 9 I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

† **do not worship:** For the first time, the verb אָרַץ, *to fear*, elsewhere used only with reference to God, is here connected with heathen gods; but only to point out the fact that disobedient Israel has yielded to idol gods the reverence which it owed to the eternal God.

° Is it MORE assuring when God reprimands us, or when He is silent? In your own life, have you experienced more grace during times of silence or reprimand

° Is it accurate to say that God abandons us?

‡ GOD IS WITH YOU (verses 11-16)

Δ “Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about”?

† Does God depend on our faithfulness in order to do the miraculous, or does He cease His work whenever we turn away from Him?

† How much responsibility do we hold for periods of “spiritual drought?”

Δ 16 The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.” (NLT)

† What does this line say about the character of God?

My Prayers This Week...

1. What “strongholds” have I built in response to our spiritual weaknesses?
2. In my spiritual responsibilities, how much do I acknowledge that God will be with me?
3. How does this section of Scripture help me see more of God’s character?