

Psalm 81

This Psalm is linked to the Passover and the release from bondage in Egypt, a type of sin. We should relate it to our freedom from the penalty of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Passover Lamb of God, [John 1:29, 35-36] an even greater slavery.

It is also associated with the Feast of Tabernacles which was the feast of ingathering of the fruit of their labours, [Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22]. It also points towards a future time when the Creator God will intervene in human affairs to bring about a time of peace and prosperity to all humanity, after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 81:1-4 [New King James] *“Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. Raise a song and strike the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the lute. Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob.”*

The blowing of a trumpet refers to the Feast of Trumpets, [Leviticus 23:23-25] referring to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [1 Thessalonians 5:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52].

Revelation 11:15 [New King James] *“Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”*

This final trumpet heralds the beginning of Jesus Christ’s rule on earth.

The “full moon” refers to the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the first day was an annual Sabbath, a day and night of light, the full moon and the rising sun gave light for 24 hours.

Psalms 81:5-7 [New King James] *“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. I removed his shoulder from the burden; His hands were freed from the baskets. 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.”*

The language they did not understand because of their captivity in a pagan world, [Exodus 6:2-3].

The reference to Meribah is to remind the people of their contention with the Creator God after their exodus from Egypt, [Exodus 17:1-7].

Psalms 81:8-10 [New King James] *“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! There shall be no foreign god among you; nor shall you worship any foreign god. I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.”*

Only the first commandment is named here, [Exodus 20:2-7], for this embodied their essential and distinctive characteristic, [Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-34].

Just as blessing preceded the call for obedience, [verses 6-7], so blessing is promised as an outcome of obedience, [verse 10].

Psalms 81:11 [New King James] *“But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me.”*

This reproach lay in the rejection of the Creator God by those whom He had been especially kind, patient and active.

Romans 1:18-25 [New King James] *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

The same can be said of some who call themselves Christians as well as non-Christians in each generation.

Psalms 81:12 [New King James] *“So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels.”*

Look at what happened to Israel and what we see in the society of every generation since the giving of the law through Moses.

Psalms 81:13-16 [New King James] *“Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries. The haters of the LORD would pretend submission to Him, but their fate would endure forever. He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you.”*

The blessings of victory and provision awaited the response of heartfelt obedience to the Creator God.

This same willingness to respond with blessings is offered to every generation when people seek to obey their Creator God.

Matthew 6:24-34 [New King James] *“No one 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. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

The same Creator God offers the same physical blessings to all who seek first to develop the very character that is His through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [Galatians 5:22-25] that is given to those who obey Him, [Acts 5:32].