

PSALM 81 vs 1

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This is the 10th of the 12 Psalms ascribed to Asaph, bearing this seer's name. In 2 Chronicles 29:30, Hezekiah ordered the Levites "to sing the words of David and of Asaph the seer" ... evidence the Spirit of God continues inspiring others to consider the ways of the Lord.

Divisions: Very little is known of the meaning of this title; the best explanation is in connection with Psalm 8; it speaks well for the devotion of the people. Praise is called for to remember the Passover; the deliverance from Egypt (1-7), then the Lord gently reprimands His people for their ingratitude (8-16) and pictures their happy estate had they been obedient to His commands:– Charles Spurgeon.



For the Choir director, on the Gittith

A Psalm of Asaph,

¹ Shout with joy to God our strength: make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob.

² Raise a psalm, strike the timbrel, the sweet-sounding harp with the guitar.

³ Blow the trumpet on the new moon, at the appointed time, on our solemn day.

⁴ For it is a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob / this joy is for the one ruled by God.

⁵ He established it for a testimony in Joseph, when he went throughout the land of Egypt: where I heard a language I did not know. / Joseph's 2 sons were greatly blessed by God.

⁶ I removed the burden from his shoulder: his hands were freed from the slave baskets.

⁷ In trouble, you called and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder: I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Selah, / pause and think about it; Sing in tune and measure, for the heartiest praise is due to our good Lord; no dullness should blur our psalmody, or half-heartedness cause it to limp along. Sing aloud, you debtors to sovereign grace, let your voice express your thanks; and He will answer from the secret place -- at times with thunder, or a pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night; our awesome God calls on His creation to assist when He speaks, to forward His agenda; **and as Joseph was sent to Egypt,** He planned to set His people free.

⁸ Hear, O My people, and I admonish you: O Israel, if you would listen to Me;

⁹ no foreign god will be among you; nor will you worship any demonic foreign god.

¹⁰ I am the LORD your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt: open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

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¹¹ **But My people did not listen to My voice; and none of Israel would have Me.**

¹² **So I gave them over to their own stubborn hearts: to walk in their own pathetic devices.**

¹³ **Oh that My people listened to Me, and the one ruled by God and walk in My ways!**

¹⁴ **Quickly I would subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries.**

¹⁵ **Indeed those who hate the LORD might feign to obey Him: but their doom will be forever.**

¹⁶ **I would feed you the finest wheat: and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.**

/ think about it; God gave them up to their stubborn, strong desires; and there was no doubt as to what course they would take; for far and wide man loves his own way. To walk with a spirit of division, a spirit of discontent, a spirit of envy and jealousy, of self-seeking rivalry, and with a spirit of distraction and confusion, so leading to ruin and destruction. A people given up to their own counsels, soon run into a ruinous heap. Surely to those who love Him, who listen to the voice of His servant, God does not think anything too costly for them – Charles Spurgeon.

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