



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

[www.chapel-flock.com](http://www.chapel-flock.com)



Vol. 42 Issue 804

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## Worship Music

You're here-  
Francesca Battistelli

Joesph's Lullaby-  
Mercy Me

Now That I Have Held  
Him In My Arms-  
Michael Card

## Prayer

Lord, I thank You for loving me so much that You help me discover the genuine level of my faith before I get into a situation where I seriously need it. To realize my need for improvement now is so much better than to find out when a difficult situation arises that my faith isn't sufficient for the challenge. So I thank You for the tender, loving care You have shown me by placing me in this challenging situation that reveals the true level of my faith. Help me to press forward and to grow in this area of my life, in Jesus' name.....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

"The Cross"

Billy Graham

" The Cure "

Pastor Chuck Smith

## Radio Stations

KWVE ...Calvary Chapel

KLOVE

## Bible Study Sites

Chuck Smith  
Through The Bible

Bob Coy/Teachings

Mike MacIntosh

Jon Courson

Biblos.com

Billy Graham

Charles Stanley

David Wilkerson

Greg Laurie

Virtue for Women-  
Cathe Laurie

Chapel Flock.....text a prayer..... request telephone number.....

(316) 247-3623

Or----

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

[chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net)

1 GIVE EAR, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable (in instruction by numerous examples); I will utter dark sayings of old [that hide important truth]— 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, but we will tell to the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonderful works that He has performed. 5 For He established a testimony (an express precept) in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, commanding our fathers that they should make [the great facts of God's dealings with Israel] known to their children, 6 That the generation to come might know them, that the children still to be born might arise and recount them to their children, 7 That they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but might keep His commandments 8 And might not be as their fathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that set not their hearts aright nor prepared their hearts to know God, and whose spirits were not steadfast and faithful to God. 9 The children of Ephraim were armed and carrying bows, yet they turned back in the day of battle. 10 They kept not the covenant of God and refused to walk according to His law 11 And forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them. 12 Marvelous things did He in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan [where Pharaoh resided]. 13 He divided the [Red] Sea and caused them to pass through it, and He made the waters stand like a heap. 14 In the daytime also He led them with a [pillar of] cloud and all the night with a light of fire. 15 He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as out of the deep. 16 He brought streams also out of the rock [at Rephidim and Kadesh] and caused waters to run down like rivers. 17 Yet they still went on to sin against Him by provoking and rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness (in the land of drought). 18 And they tempted God in their hearts by asking for food according to their [selfish] desire and appetite. 19 Yes, they spoke against God; they said, Can God furnish [the food for] a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, He did smite the rock so that waters gushed out and the streams overflowed; but can He give bread also? Can He provide flesh for His people? 21 Therefore, when the Lord heard, He was [full of] wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob, His anger mounted up against Israel, 22 Because in God they believed not [they relied not on Him, they adhered not to Him], and they trusted not in His salvation (His power to save). 23 Yet He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; 24 And He rained down upon them manna to eat and gave them heaven's grain. 25 Everyone ate the bread of the mighty [man ate angels' food]; God sent them meat in abundance. 26 He let forth the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by His power He guided the south wind. 27 He rained flesh also upon them like the dust, and winged birds [quails] like the sand of the seas. 28 And He let [the birds] fall in the midst of their camp, round about their tents. 29 So they ate and were well filled; He gave them what they craved and lusted after. 30 But scarce had they stilled their craving, and while their meat was yet in their mouths, 31 The wrath of God came upon them and slew the strongest and sturdiest of them and smote down Israel's chosen youth. 32 In spite of all this, they sinned still more, for they believed not in (relied not on and adhered not to Him for) His wondrous works. 33 Therefore their days He consumed like a breath [in emptiness, falsity, and futility] and their years in terror and sudden haste. 34 When He slew [some of] them, [the remainder] inquired after Him diligently, and they repented and sincerely sought God [for a time]. 35 And they [earnestly] remembered that God was their Rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. 36 Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouths and lied to Him with their tongues. 37 For their hearts were not right or sincere with Him, neither were they faithful and steadfast to His covenant. 38 But He, full of [merciful] compassion, forgave their iniquity and destroyed them not; yes, many a time He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath and indignation. 39 For He [earnestly] remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that goes and does not return. 40 How often they defied and rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! 41 And time and again they turned back and tempted God, provoking and incensing the Holy One of Israel. 42 They remembered not [seriously the miracles of the working of] His hand, nor the day when He delivered them from the enemy, 43 How He wrought His miracles in Egypt and His wonders in the field of Zoan [where Pharaoh resided] 44 And turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, so that they could not drink from them. 45 He sent swarms of [venomous] flies among them which devoured them, and frogs which destroyed them. 46 He gave also their crops to the caterpillar and [the fruit of] their labor to the locust. 47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore trees with frost and [great chunks of] ice. 48 He [caused them to shut up their cattle or] gave them up also to the hail and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. 49 He let loose upon them the fierceness of His anger, His wrath and indignation and distress, by sending [a mission of] angels of calamity and woe among them. 50 He leveled and made a straight path for His anger [to give it free course]; He did not spare [the Egyptian families] from death but gave their beasts over to the pestilence and the life [of their eldest] over to the plague. 51 He smote all the firstborn in Egypt, the chief of their strength in the tents [of the land of the sons] of Ham. 52 But [God] led His own people forth like sheep and guided them [with a shepherd's care] like a flock in the wilderness. 53 And He led them on safely and in confident trust, so that they feared not; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. 54 And He brought them to His holy border, the border of [Canaan] His sanctuary, even to this mountain [Zion] which His right hand had acquired. 55 He drove out the nations also before [Israel] and allotted their land as a heritage, measured out and partitioned; and He made the tribes of Israel to dwell in the tents of those dispossessed. 56 Yet they tempted and provoked and rebelled against the Most High God and kept not His testimonies. 57 But they turned back and dealt unfaithfully and treacherously like their fathers; they were twisted like a warped and deceitful bow [that will not respond to the archer's aim]. 58 For they provoked Him to [righteous] anger with their high places [for idol worship] and moved Him to jealousy with their graven images. 59 When God heard this, He was full of [holy] wrath; and He utterly rejected Israel, greatly abhorring and loathing [her ways], 60 So that He forsook the tabernacle at Shiloh, the tent in which He had dwelt among men [and never returned to it again], 61 And delivered His strength and power (the ark of the covenant) into captivity, and His glory into the hands of the foe (the Philistines). 62 He gave His people over also to the sword and was wroth with His heritage [Israel]. 63 The fire [of war] devoured their young men, and their bereaved virgins were not praised in a wedding song. 64 Their priests [Hophni and Phinehas] fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation [for the bodies came not back from the scene of battle, and the widow of Phinehas also died that day]. 65 Then the Lord awakened as from sleep, as a strong man whose consciousness of power is heightened by wine. 66 And He smote His adversaries in the back [as they fled]; He put them to lasting shame and reproach. 67 Moreover, He rejected the tent of Joseph and chose not the tribe of Ephraim [in which the tabernacle had been accustomed to stand]. 68 But He chose the tribe of Judah [as Israel's leader], Mount Zion, which He loved [to replace Shiloh as His capital]. 69 And He built His sanctuary [exalted] like the heights [of the heavens] and like the earth which He established forever. 70 He chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From tending the ewes that had their young He brought him to be the shepherd of Jacob His people, of Israel His inheritance. 72 So [David] was their shepherd with an upright heart; he guided them by the discernment and skillfulness [which controlled] his hands.

Psalm 78 is a psalm that rehearses the history of God's people. And the psalm was written in order to remind the children, the coming generation, of the works of the Lord. One of the important obligations that we have is that we not see a move of God and then see it die with the passing generation. But unfortunately, rarely does a work of God continue into a second generation. Unfortunately, we begin to get our eyes upon the things that God has done, upon the great monuments. And it turns into a monument rather than keeping our eyes upon God who is doing the work to begin with. And it's always a tragedy when the work of God turns into a memorial. Somehow we need to communicate to our children that glorious work and consciousness of God so it goes on and on and on. And the children of Israel sought to do this, but they failed. And so many times you find that from one generation to the next the work of God was forgotten. Case of Hezekiah, followed by Manasseh, his son. Hezekiah, marvelous, righteous king; Manasseh, an evil, wicked king. Somehow his father did not relate well to Manasseh his faith, his trust, his confidence in God. So,

Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from the children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works which he has done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children [passing it on to the children]: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; whom would arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments (Psa 78:1-7):

So the transmission of truth from generation to generation.

And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle (Psa 78:8-9).

They did not stand up against the enemy; they retreated.

They kept not the covenant of God, they refused to walk in his law (Psa 78:10);

That is why they turned back in battle.

And they forgot his works, and his wonders that he had showed them (Psa 78:11).

The forgetfulness.

Marvelous things he did in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea, caused them to pass through; made the waters stand up as a heap. In the daytime he led them by the cloud, and night with a light of fire. He broke the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run like rivers. And yet they sinned against him by provoking the Most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, he smote the rock, the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh to his people? Therefore the LORD heard this, he was angry: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, anger came up against Israel; because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation (Psa 78:12-22):

God's anger because of unbelief. The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God.

Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, he rained down manna upon them to eat, he had given them the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to their full. He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought the south wind. He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the middle of their camp, round about their houses. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire; But they were not estranged from their lust (Psa 78:23-30):

Even though they were filled, they were still filled with lust. In other words, you lust, but lust cannot really be satisfied. And though they were filled, still they were hungry.

but while their meat was in their mouths, [the anger] the wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel. For all of this they continued to sin, and believed not his wondrous works. Therefore their days were spent in emptiness, their years in trouble. And when he slew them, they sought him: and returned and inquired early after God. And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, but they lied unto him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with him, and neither were they steadfast in his covenant (Psa 78:30-37).

How many times people are doing the same thing, lying to God. Flattering with their mouth, but their hearts are really far from God.

But being full of compassion, he forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time he turned his anger away, and did not stir up all of his wrath. For he remembered that they were but flesh (Psa 78:38-39);

Thank God for the mercies wherewith He deals with us and He remembers that we are but flesh. Now sometimes we think we are supermen. We think we are a rock of Gibraltar. We think we're so strong; we're so powerful. "I am so strong I can stand against..." Oh,

how I cringe when I see some of these young Christians. They come up and they say, I really want to go out and I serve God in a mission field." "Well, how long have you been a Christian?" "Two months now. I feel God is calling me to a mission field. I am ready to conquer the world." You feel so strong, but God knows you are just dust. And it's good when we find out that we are just dust too, and we trust not in the arm of our flesh, but we learn to trust the Lord completely.

God remembers that they were but flesh.

a wind that passes away, and comes not again (Psa 78:39).

People have always asked, "What scripture can you give me against reincarnation?" Well, here is one. You might mark it. Your life is spoken of as a wind that passes away and comes not again. That's talking about your breath of life. It is something that is gonna pass, but it won't come again. So you are not going to come back. But who in the world would want to? When I read the predictions for the year 2000, I don't want to be around. To come back again and have to go through this. Under the conditions that will exist in the year 2000, or even the year 2020 is even going to be worse. No thanks!

Now,

How often they provoked him in the wilderness and they grieved him in the desert! Yes, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel (Psa 78:40-41).

Here is a very interesting verse, and that is that God can be limited by the unbelief of people. When Jesus was in Nazareth, it said, "He did not many works there because of their unbelief." Your unbelief can actually limit the work that God is wanting to do in your life. The children of Israel put limitations on God, and man today is often putting limitations on God.

One of the limitations that we so often place upon God are dispensational limitations. The dispensation of the apostles, you know. The dispensation of the Holy Spirit. It all ended with the apostles. God doesn't work anymore. God doesn't heal anymore. God doesn't work miracles anymore. The gifts of the Spirit are not in operation anymore. They all ceased with the apostles. And we put limits on God, not because God won't, not because God doesn't want to, but because of our unbelief, our failing to believe God to do it now. And it is still possible for us to be putting limitations on the work that God wants to do in our lives.

When I come to God, I say, "God, help me to be totally open to anything and everything You want to do in my life." I don't want to put any restraints on that which God is wanting to do in or through me. By presuppositions, by my own cultural upbringing, by the things that have been planted in my mind by the past, by my education, or anything else. I don't want anything there that would restrict or limit that which God wants to do. They limited the Holy One of Israel by their unbelief.

They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy: He wrought the signs in Egypt, and turned the rivers into blood; and the floods, that they couldn't drink. He sent the flies and the frogs. And gave the increase of their fields to the caterpillar, and to the locust. And destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. And gave their cattle also to the hail, and the flocks to the hot thunderbolts. He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, and wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them (Psa 78:42-49).

No doubt reference to the slaying of the firstborn.

He made way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to pestilence; and smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength the tabernacles of Ham: but he made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. He led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And brought them to the border of the sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. And cast the heathen also before them, divided them the inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. And yet they tempted and provoked the most high, and did not keep his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they provoked him to anger by building the places of false worship, they moved him to jealousy with their graven images. When God heard this, he was angry, and abhorred Israel: So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he had placed among men (Psa 78:50-60);

The tabernacle, of course, originally was in the area of Shiloh, which was in the portion that was given to the tribe of Ephraim.

He delivered his strength into captivity, his glory into the enemy's hand. He gave his people over to the sword; and was angry with his inheritance. Fire consumed their young men; the maidens were not given to marriage. Their priests fell by the sword; the widows made no lamentation. Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine. And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to perpetual reproach. Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim (Psa 78:61-67): When God chose then a leader, he refused to take the tribe of Ephraim, or of Joseph, which would have also been Manasseh.

But he chose the tribe of Judah, [and rather than Shiloh] Mount Zion which he loved. And there he built his sanctuary like the high places, like the earth which he established for ever. He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands (Psa 78:68-72).

A beautiful rehearsal of their history to remind them of the work of God in their past.

**Psalm 79:1-13 (AMP)**

**1 O GOD, the nations have come into [the land of Your people] Your inheritance; Your sacred temple have they defiled; they have made Jerusalem heaps of ruins. 2 The dead bodies of Your servants they have given as food to the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth. 3 Their blood they have poured out like water round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them. 4 [Because of such humiliation] we have become a taunt and reproach to our neighbors, a mocking and derision to those who are round about us. 5 How long, O Lord? Will You be angry forever? Shall Your jealousy [which cannot endure a divided allegiance] burn like fire? 6 Pour out Your wrath on the Gentile nations who do not acknowledge You, and upon the kingdoms that do not call on Your name. 7 For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his dwelling and his pasture. 8 O do not [earnestly] remember against us the iniquities and guilt of our forefathers! Let Your compassion and tender mercy speedily come to meet us, for we are brought very low. 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name! Deliver us, forgive us, and purge away our sins for Your name's sake. 10 Why should the Gentile nations say, Where is their God? Let vengeance for the blood of Your servants which is poured out be known among the nations in our sight [not delaying until some future generation]. 11 Let the groaning and sighing of the prisoner come before You; according to the greatness of Your power and Your arm spare those who are appointed to die! 12 And return into the bosom of our neighbors sevenfold the taunts with which they have taunted and scoffed at You, O Lord! 13 Then we Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth and publish Your praise from generation to generation.**

**Psalm 79**

**O God, heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps (Psa 78:1).**

**So this goes out to the future to the time when the temple was laid waste, perhaps under the reign of Rehoboam by the Egyptians.**

**The dead bodies of thy servants have given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of the saints, the beast of the earth. Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was no one to bury them. We are become a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and a derision to them around about us. How long, O LORD? will you be angry forever? shall your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name. For they have devoured Jacob, laid waste his dwelling place. O remember not against us former iniquities: let the tender mercies speedily prevent us; for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away all our sins, for thy name's sake. Why should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in thy sight in the revenging of blood of thy servants which is shed. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die; and render to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord. And so we thy people, the sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: and will show forth thy praise to all generations (Psa 79:2-13).**

**And so it begins, of course, with speaking of the desolation that was brought by their enemies upon the temple, upon the people, and asking God to take vengeance upon those that had wrought the destruction upon the nation Israel.**

**Psalm 80:1-19 (AMP)**

**1 GIVE EAR, O Shepherd of Israel, You Who lead Joseph like a flock; You Who sit enthroned upon the cherubim [of the ark of the covenant], shine forth 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh! Stir up Your might, and come to save us! 3 Restore us again, O God; and cause Your face to shine [in pleasure and approval on us], and we shall be saved! 4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers? 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and You have given them tears to drink in large measure. 6 You make us a strife and scorn to our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 Restore us again, O God of hosts; and cause Your face to shine [upon us with favor as of old], and we shall be saved! 8 You brought a vine [Israel] out of Egypt; You drove out the [heathen] nations and planted it [in Canaan]. 9 You prepared room before it, and it took deep root and it filled the land. 10 The mountains were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs of it were like the great cedars [cedars of God]. 11 [Israel] sent out its boughs to the [Mediterranean] Sea and its branches to the [Euphrates] River. 12 Why have You broken down its hedges and walls so that all who pass by pluck from its fruit? 13 The boar out of the wood wastes it and the wild beast of the field feeds on it. 14 Turn again, we beseech You, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see, visit, and have regard for this vine! 15 [Protect and maintain] the stock which Your right hand planted, and the branch (the son) that You have reared and made strong for Yourself. 16 They have burned it with fire, it is cut down; may they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance. 17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself. 18 Then will we not depart from You; revive us (give us life) and we will call upon Your name. 19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine [in pleasure, approval, and favor on us], and we shall be saved!**

**Psalm 80**

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth (Psa 80:1).**

**God's dwelling between the cherubim. Actually, in the book of Revelation John describes the throne of God with the four cherubim round about the throne crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty ceasing not to declare the greatness and holiness of God, night and day."**

**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up your strength, and come and save us. Turn again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry against the prayer of thy people? You feed them with**

the bread of tears; you give them tears to drink in great measure. You make us a strife unto our neighbors and to our enemies: they laugh among themselves. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: you have cast out the heathen, and planted it (Psa 80:2-8).

The vine out of Egypt, of course, is the nation Israel. "You've brought it out of Egypt, and You've prepared it in this land."

You've prepared room before it, you did cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land (Psa 80:9).

And so the people of God filled this land of Israel.

The hills were covered with the shadow of it, the boughs thereof were like goodly cedars. She sent out her boughs into the sea, her branches to the river. Why have you then broken down her hedges, so that they all which pass by the way do pluck her? The boar out of the woods doth waste it, the wild beast out of the fields doth devour it. Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine (Psa 80:10-14);

And so the nation Israel typified as a vine. This is a symbolism that is used also in the prophet Isaiah. God speaks of His vineyard, how He planted it, and cultivated it, and put the winepress in it, but it never did bring forth the fruit that He desired.

And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, the branch that thou hast made strong for thy self. It's burned with fire, it's cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, and upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. So will not we go back from thee: quicken us [or make us alive], and we shall call upon thy name. Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved (Psa 80:15-19).

"O God, turn to us once more, cause Your face to shine." For God had forsaken the nation Israel, because they had forsaken God. And as Asa was told by the prophet, "The Lord is with you while you'll be with Him. And if you seek Him, He'll be found of you. But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." So the nation Israel forsook God; God forsook them. But I can think of no greater tragedy in life than to be forsaken by God. And thank God it is an experience that none of us need to go through. On the cross Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" There on the cross Jesus was forsaken of the Father in order that you never need be forsaken by God. And thus, "Turn, O God, remember Your people. Bring Thy salvation."

Shall we pray.

Father, we thank You for the opportunity of studying Your Word. May we learn from the lessons that are here, Father. Oh God, may we really apply the truths to our own situations, and may we walk, oh Lord, with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Shall we stand.

David said, "I will hide Thy Word in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." And may you do likewise. May you go forth and let the Word of God dwell in your hearts richly through faith. That you might be able to comprehend how much God does love you, how much God is concerned with your well being, how much God wants to help you and strengthen you. And thus, may you walk with Him this week in a renewed consciousness of His love and of His power and of His goodness. And may He strengthen you for every test and trial that you might face. And may you walk in the victory of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, living a life that is acceptable and pleasing unto Him. In Jesus' name.



Psalm 81:1-16 (AMP)

1 SING ALOUD to God our Strength! Shout for joy to the God of Jacob! 2 Raise a song, sound the timbrel, the sweet lyre with the harp. 3 Blow the trumpet at the New Moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. 4 For this is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob. 5 This He ordained in Joseph [the savior] for a testimony when He went out over the land of Egypt. The speech of One Whom I knew not did I hear [saying], 6 I removed his shoulder from the burden; his hands were freed from the basket. 7 You called in distress and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 8 Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you—O Israel, if you would listen to Me! 9 There shall no strange god be among you, neither shall you worship any alien god. 10 I am the Lord your God, Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. 11 But My people would not hearken to My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. 12 So I gave them up to their own hearts' lust and let them go after their own stubborn will, that they might follow their own counsels. 13 Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! 14 Speedily then I would subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries. 15 [Had Israel listened to Me in Egypt, then] those who hated the Lord would have come cringing before Him, and their defeat would have lasted forever. 16 [God] would feed [Israel now] also with the finest of the wheat; and with honey out of the rock would I satisfy you.

Let's turn to Psalm 81.; On the first day of the seventh month in the Jewish calendar, which, because their calendar begins, the religious calendar begins the first of April, it usually coincides somewhere around the first of October on our calendar. There is a blowing of the trumpets. It's called the Feast of the Trumpets to announce the most holy month of the year, the seventh month. And so the first day of the seventh month the Feast of Trumpets, the blowing of the trumpets to inaugurate this holy month followed then by Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which is then followed by the Feast of Succoth or Tabernacles. And so this Feast of the Trumpets, the holy day, the sounding of the trumpets for the holy month, gathering the people in a holy convocation before God. Psalm 81 is the psalm that was read for the Feast of Trumpets. And so the beginning of the psalm is sort of a proclamation for this day that has arrived.

Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, and the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, and in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was the statute for Israel, and a law of God for Jacob. 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. I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots. So 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 (Psa 81:1-7).

And so the first section of the psalm is concluded with this: Selah. They just stop and think about that. So it is a call to the holy convocation, of singing unto the Lord with the psalm, the timbrel, the harp. The blowing of the trumpets, for God has established this as a statute in the law of Moses for the people.

God declares in verse 7, "You called in trouble, and I delivered you. I answered you in the secret place of thunder. I proved thee at the waters of Meribah." Or, "I was testing thee at the waters of Meribah." So God recounts for them some of their wilderness experiences. How that there in the wilderness they cried unto the Lord because of their thirst. And how that God answered them and proved them, tested them there at the waters of Meribah, which means "waters of strife," because the people did strive with God and with Moses.

Now God Himself cries unto the people and He declares,

Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou will hearken unto me (Psa 81:8);

So God is now calling for His people to listen to what He has to say. First of all,

There shall be no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange God (Psa 81:9).

God has declared in the law, the first commandment, that, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). Now we usually think that that sets out a priority; God first, and then all of my little gods afterwards. But, "no other gods before Me," that is, in My presence, not having any other gods around Me. In other words, our heart is to be totally towards Him and our worship given completely to Him. There shall be no strange god.

It is sad and tragic that the people did not hearken to God, and that their history was one of continual idolatry. From the time that they came into the land, they began to turn and to worship the gods of the Canaanites: Baal, Molech, Mammon, Ashtareth, and all of the gods and goddesses of the land. And they began to follow the practices of the people that dwelt in the land before them that God had driven out. And so the commandment of God, "There shall be no strange god in thee; neither shalt thou worship." And yet, they would not hearken.

I am Jehovah thy God, which brought thee out of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it (Psa 81:10).

God is declaring now the things that He desires to do for His people. And of course, He is addressing Himself to, "O my people." So He's declaring those things that He desires to do for His people. I am certain that we limit that which God would do in our lives so many times.

We are told in Jude, "Keep yourselves in the love of God" (Jude 1:21). Now, by that is meant keep yourself in the place where God can demonstrate His love that He has for you. If you say, "Well, I've got to keep myself in the love of God," thinking, "I've got to keep myself real sweet and kind and generous and nice so that God can't help but love me," you've got the wrong concept of God's love. God loves you good or bad. God's love for you is uncaused by you. God's love for you is because of His nature of love. In reality, I cannot do anything to make God love me more. In the same token, I cannot do anything that would make God love me less. God loves me.

But it is possible for me to remove myself outside of that love of God. To put myself in the position where God really can't demonstrate that love that He has for me. And that's what Jude is telling us. And God is saying here the things that He desired to do for the people. "Just open your mouth wide; I'll fill it. I'll fill your life; just open yourself completely to Me. And I will fill your life."

But [He said] my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would have nothing to do with me (Psa 81:11).

Those that God had chosen as His people just had nothing to do with God. They were worshipping these other little gods.

So [He said] I gave them up to their own hearts' lust (Psa 81:12):

In Romans, the first chapter, we read also, "Wherefore God also gave them up" (Romans 1:24). And it's always a tragic thing when God says of a man, "I've given up. Wherefore, I gave him up." God said to Jeremiah, He said, "Look, don't pray any more for their good, because if you do, I'm not going to listen to you." God said, "Ephraim is joined to her idols. Let her alone. They joined themselves to idolatry. Just forget it." For God says, "I've given them up. I'm no longer going to deal with them." And, of course, we are told that God's Spirit will not always strive with a man. And when God gives a man up, it's always a very tragic thing. God gave them up to their own hearts' lust. You think that you want it so bad. You think that that's going to be the answer of your life and you do everything you can to achieve or to attain. And sometimes God just gives you up to go ahead and says, "All right, if you want to eat it, eat it, you know. But it's going to make you sick." And He gives you up to your own heart's lust. But that can be one of the most tragic things that ever happened, for you to get your own heart's desire. Because many times we desire things that aren't really beneficial for us. God knows that they're not good for us. And when God gives us up to our own heart's desires, many times we find that the most bitter experience of our lives.

they walked [He said] in their own counsels (Psa 81:12).

They wouldn't have anything to do Me. They wouldn't follow Me.

Oh [God said] that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! (Psa 81:13)

Now God is lamenting over the people that would not walk in His ways. Oh, if they would only have listened.

I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries (Psa 81:14).

If they'd only have listened to Me.

The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: and their time would have endured for ever (Psa 81:15).

They would have remained in the land. They wouldn't have gone into captivity. I would have subdued their enemies.

And I would have fed them with the finest of wheat: with honey out of the rock I would have satisfied them (Psa 81:16).

But they would not hearken to God, and that's the cry of God. Because they would not hearken to Him, instead of knowing God's best, instead of experiencing the fullness of the demonstration of God's love, because they would not hearken unto God, they went into captivity. And then they were destroyed by their enemies.

When we get over to Israel this year, for the hearty ones I am planning to take a hike from Gihon Springs on up to the Dung Gate, because a lot of new archaeological excavations have been going on this past year. And some of the most exciting archaeological discoveries around the city of Jerusalem have been made on this hillside, as they have uncovered areas that date back to David's time. Areas that date back, actually, to the Canaanite period when the Jebusites had the city. But the interesting thing, as they have gone back in the various times of the history of Israel, they have uncovered many houses that were torn down by Nebuchadnezzar's army when he besieged Israel at the rebellion of Zedekiah. And in the debris of the houses of the people, they have found multitudes of little gods that the people had carved out.

Astarte, the goddess of fertility with her exaggerated breasts, and all of these little idols that they've uncovered. In all, it seems, in all of the houses they were just full of these little idols. The very thing that the scripture cried out against, the very thing that God was crying out against here. "Don't serve strange gods. Harken unto Me. Oh, if they would only have hearkened unto Me, then I would have kept them in the land. I would have preserved them. I would have subdued their enemies. But they would not have anything to do with Me." And so God was weeping because the people were going to go into captivity. God was weeping because of all of the hardship that they were bringing upon themselves because they would not walk in the ways of the Lord.

And I'm certain that as God looks at us and He sees us as we so often follow our own self-willed path. And God can see where that path is leading. That God just weeps as we refuse to listen, as we stubbornly say, "But I want this," and I'm pursuing the desire of my own heart. The tragic thing when God gives me over to my own lust, my own heart's lust. And He just has to stand there and weep as I go into captivity, as I am bringing all of the sorrow and hurt upon myself because I won't hearken to Him, because I won't listen to Him, because I don't want anything to do with His law.

And so God's lament. It's a very beautiful psalm as we see God really just His heart broken over the failure of the people, over the worshipping of these little gods. And how, actually, even in this last year, God has allowed evidence to be uncovered that just so vitally proves this psalm and makes the whole thing so real, as they have uncovered the houses that were destroyed by the Babylonians and found all of these strange gods. And we understand how the people had turned from Him.

As David said, you know, they've taken and they've carved gods out of stone. Eyes they have but they cannot see. Ears they have but they cannot hear. And David talked about the things that people were doing even in his time and the folly of them. And so we hope to look at these ruins when we're over there this time.

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