

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

OPEN THY MOUTH WIDE, AND I WILL FILL IT

PSALMS 81

Text: Psalms 81:10

Psalm 81:10

¹⁰ *I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.***

Introduction:

This passage has often been misused and wrongly applied by lazy preachers to justify their lack of study and preparation; stating all they have to do is open their mouth and the Lord will give them a message.

That is not the meaning of this text.

Illustration:

“I read of a young minister whose besetting sin was not laziness but conceit. He frequently boasted in public that all the time he needed to prepare his Sunday sermon was the few moments it took to walk to the church from the parsonage next door. You could

probably guess what the congregation voted to do: They bought a new parsonage eight miles away.”

Paul challenged Timothy in 2 Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Note as we consider the real meaning of this text:

1. NOTE THE WORD OF DIVINE LEGISLATION (VS. 1-5)

Psalm 81:1-5

¹ Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. ² Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. ³ Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. ⁴ For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. ⁵ 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.

Not only do we see what God wrote we see what God wrought. God gave His people “a statute,” “a law,” and “a testimony,” which speaks of divine legislation.

Psalm 81 was written about Israel, but there is a spiritual lesson for the Church; and while it contains a promise for them, it contains a principle for us. These verses teach the principle of reverence for God.

John Greenleaf wrote the following:

Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are “It might have been.”

God in His goodness ordained seven great annual feasts for His people Israel.

Four of them took place at the beginning of the religious year and three at the beginning of the civil year.

What the Jewish people did not seem to realize is that all of the feasts were also symbolic types. In other words, they were prophetic in nature, each one pointing in a unique way to some aspect of the life and work of the promised Messiah.

1. Passover

Pointed to the Messiah as our passover lamb whose blood would be shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover, at the same time that the lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening.

2. Unleavend Bread

Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life, making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.

3. First Fruits

Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in 1 Corinthians 15:20:

1 Corinthians 15:20

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

4. Harvest or Pentecost

Pointed to the great harvest of souls, both Jew and Gentile, that would come into the kingdom of God during the Church Age.

The Church was established by the Lord with His disciples but was empowered on this day when the 3,000 souls responded to Peter's first proclamation of the Gospel.

That leaves us with the three fall feasts which are yet to be fulfilled in the life and work of the Messiah. Because Jesus literally fulfilled the first four feasts and did so on the actual feast days.

5. Trumpets

Points to the Rapture when the Messiah will appear in the heavens as a Bridegroom coming for His bride, the Church.

6. Atonement

(Called Yom Kippur today.) Points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when He will return to earth.

7. Tabernacles

Points to the Lord's promise that He will once again reign over all the world from Jerusalem.

God wanted to gather His people in holiness and happiness around Himself.

But the neglected feasts were sad evidence of neglected opportunity.

Note not only the word of Divine Legislation but secondly:

2. NOTE THE WONDER OF DIVINE LIBERATION (VS. 6-12)

Psalm 81:6-12

⁶ I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots. ⁷ 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. Selah. ⁸ Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me; ⁹ There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. ¹⁰ I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. ¹¹ But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. ¹² So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

These words reminded them as well as us of the God's deliverance and goodness.

Psalm 81 was written about Israel, but there is a spiritual lesson for the Church; and while it contains a promise for them, it contains a principle for us. These verses teach the principle of remembrance of God.

Do we reflect on or remember the work of God often?

Moses warned the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 8:

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

¹¹ Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: ¹² Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; ¹³ And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; ¹⁴ Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; ¹⁶ Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; ¹⁷ And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. ¹⁸ But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. ¹⁹ And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. ²⁰ As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

That brings us to our text verse.

God was telling them the He could supply their needs – they didn't need to go to other gods – the gods of other lands.

All needs can be met by God.

Come to Me and ask what you need and I will answer you.

What is here said of the Hebrews may be said of the people of God at all times.

There is not a want of our nature—of our bodies or our souls; a want pertaining to this life or the life to come—to ourselves, to our families, to our friends, to the church, or to our country—which God is not able to meet.

Remember:

James 4:2

² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

We go to the wrong sources resulting in lust, murder, and a desire to have – and cannot obtain.

Remember:

James 1:16-17

¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Let consider lastly:

**3. NOTE THE WOE OF DIVINES
LAMENTATION (VS. 13-16)**

Psalm 81:13-16

¹³ Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! ¹⁴ I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. ¹⁵ The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever. ¹⁶ He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

After pronouncing a list of woes upon the Scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-36), the Lord laments in Matthew 23:37:

Matthew 23:37

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Psalm 81 was written about Israel, but there is a spiritual lesson for the Church; and while it contains a promise for them, it contains a principle for us. These verses teach the principle of reliance upon God.

Do we rely on God?

Note the Lord's words in Matthew 6 in His sermon on the mount:

Matthew 6:24-34

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for

raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Close:

Psalm 81 is known as “An Appeal for Israel’s

Repentance.” Do you need to repent?

Do you have a reverence for God?

Do you have a remembrance of God?

Do you have a reliance upon God?

Are you living wide open?

