

LESSONS FROM PSALMS EIGHTY-ONE

Scripture: Psalm 81:1-16

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This is another Psalm written by Asaph. It seems to be a sequel to the 80th Psalm.
- B. This Psalm seems to be setting forth some steps for God's people to re-establish fellowship with God.
- C. There are some very good lessons for God's people in any age or generation.

I. LEARN THAT GOD WILLS THAT HIS PEOPLE REJOICE BEFORE HIM. vs. 1-7a

- A. God commands it.
 - 1. vs. 1-4
 - 2. Jesus commanded it. Matt. 5:11,12
 - 3. Paul commanded it. Phil. 3:1; 4:4; I Thes. 5:16
 - 4. Peter commanded it. I Peter 4:13
- B. Because of what God has done for us.
 - 1. vs. 5-7a
 - 2. Luke 10:20
 - 3. I Peter 1:6-8
- C. Because it proves our love for God. John 14:28

II. LEARN THAT OUR GOD PROVES HIS OWN PEOPLE. vs. 7b-10

- A. All through the journey from Egypt to the Land of promise. v. 7b
- B. Before Jesus began His earthly ministry, He was driven into the wilderness where He proved Himself to be the Son of God.
- C. Before Abraham was blessed, God proved him.
- D. God proves His people by challenging them. vs. 8-10
 - 1. Hear me...listen to me...remember how I dealt with your fathers in the wilderness when they worshiped idols.
 - 2. If you do all this, you will worship me—never idols
 - 3. Open your mouth...make your requests without limit...you have only to ask...and I will fill your needs. v. 10
 - 4. Jesus said, "seek and ye shall find, ask and it shall be done unto you."

III. LEARN THAT GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE LIMITED ONLY BY OUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THEM. vs. 11,12

- A. God permits all people to exercise their own will in matters related to salvation and service.
 - 1. My people WOULD not...Israel WOULD have none of me. v.11
 - 2. I gave them up and let them walk in THEIR COUNSELS. (SO I left them to their own self-will to follow their own devises.) v.12
- B. Why did these NOT receive the blessings of God?
- C. Why are so many people still lost?
- D. Why are so many of God's own people backslidden and out of His service
- E. Why are so many people devoid of the blessings of God? ALL THESE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED THE SAME WAY. BECAUSE THEY WILL TO BE.

IV. LEARN THAT IT GRIEVES GOD FOR PEOPLE TO FAIL TO LISTEN TO HIM. v.13

- A. "OH" that my people had harkened unto me."
 - 1. This is the language of grief.

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2. Like a parent who son has gotten into serious trouble because he has not listened to his father or mother.
 - B. How do you think God feels when a person dies lost? "God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked."
 - C. How do you think God feels when He looks down on His children who are not listening to His wise counsel?
 - D. God is grieved even more than an earthly parent who sees a son or daughter go bad.
- V. LEARN OF THE PERSONAL SORROW OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN. vs. 14-16
- A. Victory could have been...God would have fed them with the best...God would have satisfied them...BUT all this was not to be—because they would not listen to God.
 - B. Salvation could have been...If only you had CALLED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. Heaven could have been yours...BUT you would not listen to God
 - C. Great rewards could have been...God wills that all His people receive great rewards...BUT you would not.