

Scripture

Psalm 81 (NLT)

A psalm of Asaph, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.

- 1 Sing praises to God, our strength.
Sing to the God of Jacob.**
- 2 Sing! Beat the tambourine.
Play the sweet lyre and the harp.**
- 3 Blow the ram's horn at new moon,
and again at full moon to call a festival!**

4 For this is required by the decrees of Israel;
it is a regulation of the God of Jacob.

5 He made it a law for Israel
when he attacked Egypt to set us free.

I heard an unknown voice say,

6 “Now I will take the load from your
shoulders;

I will free your hands from their heavy tasks.

7 “You cried to me in trouble, and I saved you;
I answered out of the thundercloud
and tested your faith when there was no
water at Meribah.

- 8** “Listen to me, O my people,
while I give you stern warnings.
O Israel, if you would only listen to me!
- 9** You must never have a foreign god;
you must not bow down before a false god.
- 10** For it was I, the Lord your God,
who rescued you from the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with
good things.
- 11** “But no, my people wouldn’t listen.
Israel did not want me around.
- 12** So I let them follow their own stubborn
desires, living according to their own ideas.

- 13** “Oh, that my people would listen to me!
Oh, that Israel would follow me,
walking in my paths!
- 14** How quickly I would then subdue their
enemies!
How soon my hands would be upon their
foes!
- 15** Those who hate the Lord would cringe
before him;
they would be doomed forever.
- 16** But I would feed you with the finest wheat.
I would satisfy you with wild honey from
the rock.”