

Psalm 080 - Israel Pleads for the Messiah's Return

The tenor of this entire Psalm is Israel's pleading to the "Man of Thy right hand" (v17) to deliver them from a severe predicament (v1-3). The scenario is the final day of the Tribulation, the Day before the Second Coming, the time of Israel's regeneration (Cf. Hosea 6:1-3; Is 53:1-9; Is 64).

Psalm 80

[To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph.]

A Prayer for Jerusalem

1 Listen, Shepherd of Israel, Who leads Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned *above* the cherubim, shine forth!

1 Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned *above* the cherubim, shine forth!

1 Shepherd of Israel, listen! The one who leads Joseph like a flock, the one enthroned on the cherubim, display your glory.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, awaken Your power, And come to save us!

2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power And come to save us!

2 Reveal your power before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, then come to our rescue.

2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

Why These Three Tribes?

Why would Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh be mentioned? These three tribes were immediately behind the Ark in the order of the march (Num 2:17-24). It was the ark that led the children of Israel through the wilderness, and as God had led them once before, the cry comes to lead them again.

3 God, restore us And make Your face shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.

3 O God, restore us And cause Your face to shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.

3 God, restore us, show your favor and deliver us.

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

- In v1-3, Israel is pleading for God to deliver them out of a very severe predicament

4 LORD God of armies, How long will You be angry with the prayer of Your people?

4 O LORD God of hosts, How long will You be angry with the prayer of Your people?

4 LORD God of the Heavenly Armies, when will your smoldering anger toward your people's prayers cease?

4 O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, And You have made them drink tears in large measure.

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, And You have made them to drink tears in large measure.

5 You fed them tears as their food, and caused them to drink a full measure of tears.

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

6 You make us an object of contention to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

6 You make us an object of contention to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

6 You have set us at strife against our neighbors and our enemies deride us.

6 Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

- A brief elegy: a lament, a sad part of the psalm. The psalmist feels God is angry because He does not answer the prayer of His people.

7 God of armies, restore us And make Your face shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.

7 O God of hosts, restore us And cause Your face to shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.

7 God of the Heavenly Armies, restore us and show your favor, so we may be delivered.

7 Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

- Cf. Num 6:24-27, the OT benediction; The Messiah's face...

8 You removed a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.

8 You removed a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.

8 You uprooted a vine from Egypt, and drove out nations to transplant it.

8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

9 You cleared *the ground* before it, And it took deep root and filled the land.

9 You cleared *the ground* before it, And it took deep root and filled the land.

9 You cleared the ground so that its roots grew and filled the land.
9 Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered with its shadow, And the cedars of God with its branches.
10 The mountains were covered with its shadow, And the cedars of God with its boughs.
10 Mountains were covered by its shadows, and the mighty cedars by its branches.
10 The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.

A Disturbing Pattern

The responsibility of Israel was greater than that of the heathen nations because God had granted to them a privilege that no other nation had, which was the visible presence of God.

God brought the nation of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. God cast the heathen nations out of the land of Palestine and planted Israel there as His vine. Israel built a temple to worship God. Then they were told that their temple would be destroyed and they would be put out of the land. Why? For the same reason that God put the heathen nations out of the land—they turned their backs upon God.

11 It was sending out its branches to the sea And its shoots to the *Euphrates* River.
11 It was sending out its branches to the sea And its shoots to the River.
11 Its branches spread out to the Mediterranean Sea and its shoots to the Euphrates River.
11 She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river.

12 Why have You broken down its hedges, So that all who pass *that* way pick its *fruit*?
12 Why have You broken down its hedges, So that all who pass *that* way pick its *fruit*?
12 Why did you break down its walls so that those who pass by pluck its fruits?
12 Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?

13 A boar from the forest eats it away, And whatever moves in the field feeds on it.
13 A boar from the forest eats it away And whatever moves in the field feeds on it.
13 Wild boars of the forest gnaw at it, and creatures of the field feed on it.
13 The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.
- For years, after God planted His vine, He put a hedge about the land. The people lived in the land for 600 years.

- God didn't permit any of the great nations of that day to destroy them. Egypt came against Israel and had victories, but did not destroy them.
- The same was true of Syria and the Hittite nation
- But the day came when God removed the hedge and let the enemies of Israel come in. Why? — Because Israel had rejected the Shepherd of Israel.

14 God of armies, do turn back; Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine,

14 O God of hosts, turn again now, we beseech You; Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine,

14 God of the Heavenly Armies, return! Look down from heaven and see. Show care toward this vine.

14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;

15 The shoot which Your right hand has planted, And of the son whom You have strengthened for Yourself.

15 Even the shoot which Your right hand has planted, And on the son whom You have strengthened for Yourself.

15 The root that your right hand planted, the shoot that you tended for yourself,

15 And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish from the rebuke of Your face.

16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

16 was burned with fire, cut off, and destroyed on account of your rebuke.

16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.

17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.

17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.

17 May you support the man at your right hand; the son of man whom you have raised for yourself.

17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.

- "...the man of thy right hand" - Who is at God's right hand? Israel's Messiah

- The specific Person for whom they are pleading is the One on God's right hand: Jesus the Messiah, who has been sitting at the right hand of God the Father ever since His Ascension from the Mount of Olives. He is the son of man. A day is coming when the Jews will request Him to arise from that seat to deliver Israel and He will do so (Hosea 6:1-3).
- David wrote, "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Ps 110:1)
- The Lord Jesus applied this to Himself when His enemies challenged His Messianic claim (Matt 22:44)

Genesis 35

When Rachel gave birth to her second son along the roadside that leads into Bethlehem: Benjamin was the baby, but she didn't call him that: she called him Ben-oni, "son of my suffering." But when Jacob looked upon him, he said, "No, we won't call him Ben-oni, we'll call him Benjamin, because he is the "son of my right hand."

Benjamin is a picture, a type, of our Lord Jesus who came to earth the first time as the Son of suffering. But today He is at God's right hand. Of Him the Father said, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Ps 110:1) and someday He will be returning from that position to this earth (Hosea 5:15).

- 18 Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.
- 18 Then we shall not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.
- 18 Then we will not turn away from you. Restore us, so we can call upon your name.
- 18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.

- 19 LORD God of armies, restore us; Make Your face shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.
- 19 O LORD God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine *upon us*, and we will be saved.
- 19 God of hosts, restore to us the light of your favor. Then we'll be delivered.
- 19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.