

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

TURN US AGAIN

PSALMS 80

Text: Psalms 80:3, 7, 19

Psalm 80:3

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

Psalm 80:7

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

Psalm 80:19

¹⁹ **Turn us again**, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face
to shine; and we shall be saved.

Introduction:

As in the case of most of the historical Psalms, it is impossible to say for certain exactly when this Psalm was written.

What we do know is that it sets forth a picture of great disaster and national calamity.

The psalm is divided into three parts which are seen in the text verses; verses 3, 7, 19.

Though these verses are similar we still see a progression.

Note:

In verse 3 we read, “O God.”

In verse 7 we read, “O God of host.”

In verse 19 we read, “O Lord God of host.”

The psalmist insight seems to grow as the psalm progresses.

The closer he got to God the bigger God got.

Though these verses have slight differences there is one phrase repeated three times – “Cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.”

It implies that he had seen God’s power in the past and wanted to see it again.

The Psalmist all through the chapter knew that his only hope was to have God’s face to shine on the situation.

He knew that without God his country had no hope.

He had saw God move in the past and he longed for God to move again.

Remember:

If God ever has, He still can.

Note:

1. ASAPH'S PRAYER (VS. 1-3)

The Psalmist addresses the Lord and pray for renewed favor upon his people. The Psalmist regards the sad condition of the people as the direct result of God withdrawing his favor. Sometimes, like Israel, things do come in our lives that shouldn't be there and it causes God's favor to be withdrawn.

Note:

A. The Psalmist Begins By Asking God to Listen to His Prayer (vs. 1)

Psalm 80:1

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

Notice how he begins his prayer – “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.”

One of the responsibilities of a shepherd is to give ear to the bleating and cries of the sheep. That's why the psalmist said "Give Ear". In other words Asaph is saying "listen to my bleating, listen to my cries."

God as the Shepherd of Israel, led his flock out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the land of promise.

He tended to each sheep individually, and provided their daily needs.

What God did with Israel is a good picture of the Lord as the good shepherd in his redemptive work.

John 10:11

¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

We should be glad that we have a Shepherd that will hear us.

Note not only Asaph's Prayer but the reason for his prayer is seen in:

2. ASAPH'S PROBLEM (VS. 5-6)

Psalm 80:5-6

⁵ Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure. ⁶ Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

The problem was a national calamity.

They were eating bread of tears, and drinking tears as well.

They were in great distress.

Their enemies were mocking and laughing at them. A people who had claimed that God was with them and working on their behalf and now being judged by the God they said loved them.

Israel was away from God.

They were in total rebellion and as a result God was chastening them.

My problem or your problem may not be one of national proportions.

It may be a small, personal problem that no one knows about

- It may be a physical problem
- It may be a family problem
- It may be a material of financial problem

But no matter what the problem is, our Shepherd has the solution.

This leads me to one final thought. That is:

3. THE ALMIGHTY PERSON – “CAUSE THY FACE TO SHINE AND WE SHALL BE SAVED”

Asaph showed confidence and trust in God.

He was saying “God if you’ll just show up everything will be alright.

This Psalm is filled with an earnest and repeated prayer for deliverance, and the Psalmist bases his appeal upon God’s dealings with Israel in the past.

The Psalmist is saying, “God’s done it before and I’m looking for him to do it again.”

God has done great things in the past that I believe he still can today.

Anything God has ever done he can still do today!!!

Close:

In America today it seems that there is no hope. It seems that Satan and his demons have taken charge and have the upper hand.

We must remember that our God is still on the throne.

We should not get disheartened to the point that we feel we can do nothing about this situation. Even in the midst of the most terrible circumstances God's face can shine.

May our prayer be:

Psalm 80:3

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

Psalm 80:7

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