

Psalm 85

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

O LORD, You showed favor to Your land; *last tense: God once showed mercy to His covenant people.*

You restored the captivity of Jacob. *in their most difficult hour God was able to overrule.*

² You forgave the iniquity of Your people; *it required spiritual forgiveness as much as historic might.*

You covered all their sin Selah. *"Selah" is a musical interlude. It means "think on such a marvelous idea."*

³ You withdrew all Your fury; *no matter how bad the sin, God is merciful.*

You turned away from Your burning anger.

⁴ Restore us, O God of our salvation, *The author now speaks to the present day. What God did is not just a memory but a standard of what God can do. History inspires us.*

And cause Your indignation toward us to cease.

⁵ Will You be angry with us forever? *Surely God has not changed.*

Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

⁶ Will You not Yourself revive us again? *Can you not repeat your greatest of deeds? Grant life to THIS generation. Once again hymns will be written to God's goodness.*

That Your people may rejoice in You?

⁷ Show us Your lovingkindness, O LORD, *our generation*

And grant us Your salvation. *God delivers each generation.*

⁸ I will hear what God the LORD will say; *After his prayer (1-7) he receives God's answer*

For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; *the godly ones are the faithful and pious remnant. The few can effect history for the many.*

But let them not turn back to folly. *There must be true repentance*

⁹ Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him. *i.e. the deliverance of the nation*

That glory may dwell in our land. *God once again residing in the nation. These who obey and grieve and pray - God is near because of their prayers. Happy days can be here*

¹⁰ Lovingkindness and truth have met together; *God's goodness man's obedience*

Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. *God's standards man's*

¹¹ Truth springs from the earth, *Man reconciled ("kissed") to God. This is "glory in the land"*

And righteousness looks down from heaven. *like life springing up*

¹² Indeed, the LORD will give what is good, *May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace*

And our land will yield its produce. *this will be in the greatest sense during the Kingdom of Christ when "the sower will overtake the reaper"*

¹³ Righteousness will go before Him

And will make His footsteps into a way. *men will follow God's way. His presence shall come with righteousness*

he explains how

Restoration demanded repentance and forgiveness

no longer could the see the nation's sin.

this is how a nation is restored. When God turns from His anger.

3 questions are asked.

God's mercies never cease...

When men are repentant, joy is returned

God delivers each generation

From Past to Present to Future confidence

indeed! God is good and able to act

as God in His righteousness looks in favor from above and pours down His favor

But greater than physical blessing shall be the nation's obedience.