

Messages From the Psalms II: Restoration – Psalm 80

December 11, 2018

First Things First

- “Lillies of the Covenant” is in the superscript of this psalm is a reference to a tune that is no longer known.
- Joseph is a term usually used for the Northern Kingdom.
- The reference to God dwelling between the cherubim is meant to remind us of God’s presence on the Ark of the Covenant.
- This particular psalm is classified as a communal lament.

Going Deep

- 1) According to the superscript, this particular psalm was meant to be sung to a particular tune that is now lost. This suggests that the tune the song was meant to be sung in had something to do with how the song was meant to be received. How can the tune that a song is sung in shift how the message of the song is received?

- 2) Laments usually involve a person or group calling out to God when they feel abandoned by God. What evidence do you see in today’s lesson that supports the idea that this particular group feels abandoned by God?

- 3) There are two different requests for restoration in today’s lesson. The first is a request that God restore the people of God by returning them to God. The second is a request

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that God return to them. Why do you think that it wasn't enough for the people to just ask God to return to them?

- 4) Like all Biblical laments, this psalm doesn't just dwell on what's wrong in the lives of those praying/singing/reciting it. It also includes a reminder and conviction that God can and will do something to turn things around. How might studying this particular psalm help someone in need of restoration know that it is both possible and available to them?

- 5) The people of Israel lost their sense of connectedness with God because of choices they made. Once the repercussions of those choices sunk in, they did something to change their situation. What do you read, sing or pray when you discover that you need God to restore something in your life that you've lost as a result of your own choices?
