

Psalm 85

Psalms 85:1-3 [New King James] *“LORD, You have been favourable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah. You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.”*

This Psalm was written during a time of spiritual decline in the nation very like we face in the community in this generation.

The Psalmist remembers all that God had done in the past for the nation when their relationship with the Creator God had been closer.

This provides the basis for the spirit of revival prayer and the optimism that pervades the Psalm.

Psalms 85:4-7 [New King James] *“Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.”*

These verses expose the nature of the trouble the nation is in.

The past mercies are **not** being experienced in the present time, therefore they ask first that God will be reconciled to them, in putting away His displeasure in them, [**verses 4-5**].

Secondly that they may experience fulfilment of the covenant promises of God’s steadfast love and their own salvation, [**verse 7**].

Psalms 85:8 [New King James] *“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.”*

In this verse the Psalmist is speaking to himself in tones of hopefulness, he is sure that God will *“speak peace to His people,”* but he knows it is conditional, starting with repentance.

Psalms 85:9 [New King James] *“Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.”*

Any revival has to be prompted by an attitude of fear, that is reverence and awe in Who and what the Triune God is, this is what is lacking in humanity in our present generation.

Such reverence should be **only** towards the Creator God **not** any human being can expect to be called by such a title!

Such worship of the Creator God alone will enable us to know the reality of God in all His glory.

Psalms 85:10-11 [New King James] *“Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”*

When salvation comes it will be seen first to involve absolute harmony in God’s divine attributes.

Romans 5:8 [New King James] *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

The righteousness of Jesus Christ who came down from heaven to be our Saviour is available for us while we were still sinners.

God Himself makes the first move in this reconciliation of ourselves to Him as our Creator.

The essential condition is the remoulding of our very nature, that is done in an attitude of gratitude towards God.

Isaiah 64:8 [New King James] *“But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.”*

God is the only One who can mould us into a being that is acceptable to Him, a Holy God.

Romans 9:20-21 [New King James] *“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honour and another for dishonour?”*

What God creates in us is what He desires **not** what we may desire.

Ephesians 2:10 [New King James] *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

God has always known what He wants us to become.

What then is our part?

Psalms 37:4 [New King James] *“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*delight*” is “*anag*” meaning to be soft and pliable, just as clay has to be pliable in the hands of a potter as he moulds it into the vessel he desires to create.

This surrender to the Creator God has to be total, every aspect of our lives, [Romans 12:1-2; Luke 14:26-27, 33].

Psalms 85:12 [New King James] *“Yes, the LORD will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.”*

The day of salvation is the restoration of Eden, a world how the Creator God intended it to be, before Satan and humans introduced sin.

This is no fantasy but exactly how the world tomorrow will be like after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

[Please download and study the articles on this website under the two main headings ‘*The World Tomorrow*’ and ‘*Agriculture And The Environment.*’ You will be eternally grateful for the vision of the future they bring from God’s Word, the Christian Bible.]