

Part 4 – Truth and Righteousness Shall Flourish

In part 3 we learned that there's a *stipulation* for receiving God's salvation; and that is, we *must* fear Him. And this 'fear' is two-fold. Not only must we fear *to disobey* Him, but we must *also* *revere* Him. For, if we don't fear to disobey Him, *and* revere (honor and respect) Him, then we simply won't strive to *obey* Him. And *sincere* obedience is *vital* to receiving God's salvation, because it's the *result* of having true faith in God, as James 2 explains so very well. As Jesus said, in John 17:3, eternal life *is knowing* our Heavenly Father (the only true God) *and* Jesus Christ, the *only* true Savior He sent for us. And when we do meet the requirements for His salvation, His 'glory' will dwell in our land *and* in our heart via His Holy Spirit. And then we also saw the Psalmist portray how the Lord's (YHVH's) attributes of mercy and truth – and then righteousness and peace - would harmonize to provide comfort to Israel. So, while mercy, truth, righteousness and peace had been estranged in Israel, God promised they would become 'friends' again, united in delightful harmony. As Isaiah 32:17, says, *the fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever*. So, peace doesn't come without righteousness, just as salvation doesn't come without mercy and truth. And we learned that this was also quite prophetic of, not only Jesus' First Advent, but also His Second Advent as well. So, while this Psalm doesn't directly speak of the Messiah, it foreshadows (looks forward to) Him – as so much of the Old Testament does. And yet, the Psalmist is not done with personification. So, let's see how he closes this lovely Psalm...

Psalm 85

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

So again, the Psalmist continues to use personification to explain the impacts of God's salvation. But this time, he does so by saying that *truth will spring out of the earth* and *righteousness will look down from heaven*. The word '**truth**' again means **stability** and, figuratively, **certainty**, **truth**, **trustworthiness** (#571). And the prime root it comes from is also helpful, in this case, for it means **to build up or support**; *to foster as a parent or nurse*; figuratively, it means **to render** (or be) **firm** or **faithful**, **to trust** or **believe**, **to be permanent** or **quiet** and, **morally to be true** or **certain** (#539). And the words '**spring out**' mean **to sprout** (#6779) while the word '**earth**' means either *the earth at large*, or *a partitively a land* (#776). And '**righteousness**' again means **the right** (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) **equity** or (figuratively) **prosperity** (#6664) while the words '**look down**' mean **to lean out** (of a window), i.e. (by implication) **peep** or **gaze** (#8259). Now, the mention of heaven and earth suggests that *more* is being unified than just the attributes of God. Heaven *and* earth are uniting, resulting in peace and blessing for God's people. And, while the Psalmist was speaking of salvation and peace in his own day, this verse truly looks forward to the Messiah, Jesus Christ; in whom *all* of God's attributes are concentrated (unified, Heb 1:3, Col 2:9) *and also* whom will unite heaven and earth, under God's will, when He returns to take *full* dominion on earth. And that's why this verse says that truth (which is

Jesus Christ, John 1:1,14, 17:17) ‘springs out’ (i.e. sprouts) of the earth. Indeed, Jesus Christ is called a ‘branch’ in the Old Testament prophesies. And the two Hebrew words for ‘**branch**’ both mean **sprout** (#4242 and 6780). As it is written...

*1 And there shall come forth a **rod** out of the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his roots:*

*2 And **the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD:*

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

*4 But **with righteousness shall he judge the poor**, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

*5 And **righteousness** shall be the girdle of his loins, and **faithfulness** the girdle of his reins.*

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

*9 **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.***

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isa 11:1-10

The word ‘**root**’ in verse 1 means **a twig** (#2415) while the word ‘**branch**’ (as noted before) means **a shoot** and is figuratively used for *a descendant* (#5342). And, Jesus Christ is referred to as a ‘Branch’ in other Scriptures too...

*In that day shall **the branch of the LORD** be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.*

Isa 4:2

*5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a **righteous Branch**, and a **King** shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jer 23:5-6

*15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the **Branch of righteousness to grow up** unto David; and **he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.***

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Jer 33:15-16

*12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and **he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:***

*13 Even **he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear** [i.e. carry] **the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.***

Zech 6:12-13

The Hebrew word for ‘Branch’ in all of the Scriptures above also means **a sprout** (#6780) and it’s clear that all these prophecies of Jesus Christ confirm what this 11th verse here in Ps 85 prophecies of. Jesus Christ indeed ‘sprang out’ of the earth (Bethlehem) when He was born of the virgin, Mary. And so it was that, when Jesus Christ was on earth at His First Advent, the Lord (YHVH) – who is *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17) – did indeed ‘look down’ (gaze) from heaven. That’s why He witnessed to the world that: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.* And this happened, not only when Jesus was baptized (Matt 3:16-17) but also at the ‘mount of transfiguration’ (Matt 17:4-5). And, during His ministry, when Jesus asked the Father to glorify His name, there came *a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again* (John 12:28). So, our Heavenly Father was looking down from heaven and watching truth (Jesus Christ) as He ‘sprang out’ of the land, grew and began to produce abundant fruit for Him (Acts 10:38, John 10:32). We also learned about this ‘sprout’ (branch) when studying the vineyard back in Psalm 80 [which you can study via this link if you want a refresher: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/976].

But this 11th verse (in Ps 85) wasn’t only prophetic of Jesus’ *First* Advent; it’s also just as prophetic of His *Second* Advent too. For, righteousness (God Himself) will ‘look down’ (gaze) from Heaven again when Jesus Christ returns to take over the earth. **But**, He won’t *only* be ruling the earth. As Col 1:20 says, God sent Jesus Christ to earth to make peace (reconcile) all things to Himself; both that which is **in heaven and in earth**. Eph 1:10 also confirms this when it says that, God will gather together all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth. And that’s why it’s written (in Isa 45:23 and Phil 2:10-11) *that, at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*. So, Jesus Christ will not only take dominion on earth; He’s also conquered all rebellion in heaven too (as Col 2:14-15 declares). And that’s why Heb 12:26-27 says that God will not only shake the earth

at Christ's return (as Joel 3:16, Hag 2:6-7, 21 and Isa 2:19-21 also declare) but *also heaven as well*; which is why Satan and his fallen angels will be kicked out of heaven *and cast down to the earth* (as Rev 12 and 2 Thess warns us).

And so, just as this Ps 85:11 says, truth (Jesus Christ) *has* 'sprung out' of the earth *and* righteousness (God Himself) looked down from heaven. Again, this happened, not only at Jesus' First advent, but will happen again at His Second Advent. As it is also written: *For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations* (Isa 61:10-11). And this is why Peter wrote that we, *according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness* (2 Peter 3:13). Therefore, when mercy, truth, peace and righteousness are united (through Jesus Christ's rule) then heaven and earth will also be united *under His control* (Rev 11:15, 12:10). And the result is peace and blessings for all those who serve the Living God and His Son, Jesus Christ – yea, even for all *nations* who accept Jesus Christ as their King of kings (Rev 21:24). As the angels so well sang to the shepherds as they were announcing Jesus' birth: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:15).

Psalms 85

12 Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

Now, the word '**Lord**' here is **Yehovah** (#3068) which means the *self-Existent* or *Eternal*. Yehovah is therefore the Eternal or Immutable One, He Who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME (Rev 1:8). And, while 'Elohim' (#430) is God as the Creator of all things, Yehovah is the same God in covenant relation to those whom He has created. He is especially, therefore, the God of Israel; but *also*, the God of those who are redeemed, and are thus, now 'in Christ'. And then the words '**give**' and '**yield**' are *both* the *same* Hebrew word (#5414) which means *to give*. And the word 'good' means **good** (as an adjective) *in the widest sense*; used also used likewise as a noun, both in the masculine and the feminine, the singular and the plural (i.e. good = a good or good thing, a good man or woman; the good, goods or good things, good men or women), also as an adverb (well) (#2896). And then the word '**land**' again means *the earth at large*, or *partitively a land* (#776). And lastly, the word '**increase**' means *to produce*, i.e. *a crop* or (figuratively) *wealth* (#2981).

So, after the Psalmist spoke of truth (Jesus Christ) springing out of the earth, He now speaks of the land yielding her increase, which means *producing* fruit. And *that's* how the Lord shall give those who 'fear' (and revere) Him that which is good. Truly, the biggest blessing is giving us our King and Savior, Jesus Christ (*and His Holy Spirit*, John 14-16; Acts 2:33, 5:32). For, *because of Jesus' righteousness* will He rule the world *so perfectly* that it produces *abundant* fruit. Psalms 65 and 67 also spoke of this as well. So, unlike the unfruitful vineyard spoken of in Isaiah 5 –

which produced ‘wild grapes’ (poison berries) – the land *will* produce good fruit when Jesus Christ returns. When Israel was rebelling (sinning) against God, they produced nothing but sin and misery, which is what the ‘wild berries’ were symbolic of. But, the ‘good’ fruit spoken of here is *righteousness*. And that’s actually *why* God chastises us. For, *while no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth **the peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby* (Heb 12:11). Eph 5:9 also says, *the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth*. Gal 5:22-23 also tells us that *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance*. James 3:18 also tells us that *the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace*.

And, as verse 10 pointed out, peace only comes when it ‘kisses’ righteousness, which means that true and lasting peace only comes when God’s Laws are faithfully enforced, both inside our ‘inner man’ (heart and mind, Isa 26:3) as well as in the government. And so, the land will yield her increase (flourish abundantly) when Jesus Christ returns and He will give those who remain faithful to Him that which is good; which not only means eternal life (Phil 3:21, Rev 20:4-6) but also physical and spiritual blessings. And while we certainly can receive many of the ‘good things’ (blessings from God) now (when we faithfully serve Jesus Christ), the ‘good things’ will be on a much grander scale than we can even imagine now when Jesus finally returns. But, as James 5:7-8 points out, we must be patient for Jesus Christ’s return (and the blessings He will bring). For, as *the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain* so too must we also *be patient*, and work to *stablish our hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh!*

So, essentially, in this 12th verse (in Ps 85) the Psalmist is using the metaphor of harvest to look forward to his prayer of Israel’s *full* restoration being fulfilled. This metaphor (harvest) has been used many other places in the Scriptures as well, both in the positive and negative sense (Mth 13:37-43; Jer 5:23-25, 51:3; Hose 6:11; Joel 3:13; Rev 14:15-20, etc.). And Proverbs reminds us what our job is to help with the harvest...

5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. [Mth 9:37-38]

6 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
Prov 10:5-6

Psalm 85

13 Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

The word ‘**righteousness**’ here again means *the right* (natural, moral or legal) as well as equity or (figuratively) prosperity (#6664). And the words ‘**shall go**’ mean *to walk* (#1980). And the

word ‘set’ means *to put* (#7760) while the word ‘us’ is actually *not in the original Hebrew manuscripts*; it was added by the translators for ‘better readability’ (#9999).

So, in other words, *righteousness follows the Lord’s (YHVH’s) steps*. As He said in Isa 45:19: *I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: **I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.*** And He also promised that He would magnify His Law (making it honorable) for He is pleased when righteousness is enforced on earth (Isa 42:21). That’s why He said, when prophesying of Jesus Christ: *I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts* (Isa 45:13). And many other Scriptures speak (and prophesy) of righteousness (Jesus Christ) going *before* the Lord (Isa 45:22-25, 46:12-13, 61:1-3, 62:1-4; Hos 10:12; Matt 6:33; Luke 1:68-75; Acts 10:34-35). And Jesus Christ truly did come into this world (via a flesh body) *before* the Lord (YHVH) Himself will return. For all things (both in heaven and on earth) *must* be subdued before God Himself will return and dwell among us; as 1 Cor 15:23-28 explains and Rev 21:3 prophesies of.

And God also promised that His righteousness would *not* be abolished; it will last *forever* and His salvation will *not be ineffective* (Isa 51:6-8). For, the Lord (YHVH) *speaks in righteousness* and He *is mighty to save* (Isa 63:1). Jer 4:2 also says that *the LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory*. Jer 9:24 also says: *let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD*. And so it is that God’s righteousness (implemented through Jesus Christ) is what will cause the earth to produce abundantly, which is why those who faithfully serve Him will be given that which is ‘good’ (as the prior verses spoke of). As Isa 61:10 says: *For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations*. And, as Isa 61:3 says of those who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, they will be called *trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that **he** might be glorified*.

So, despite the fact that Israel (who were *supposed* to be enforcing righteousness in their own land and truly, even throughout the world) had long been rebellious to our Heavenly Father (as the parable of the vineyard in Isa 5 and Mth 21 both speak of), the *true* Messiah (Jesus Christ) *will return and rule the world in righteousness*. And through Jesus’ faithfulness at enforcing (and teaching) truth (God’s Laws/Word) *righteously* (and through His great mercy) He *will* bring peace to the land - yea, even to the world...

*12 The righteous **shall** flourish like the palm tree: he **shall** grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*

*13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD **shall** flourish in the courts of our God.*

*14 They **shall** still bring forth fruit in old age; they **shall** be fat and flourishing;*

*15 To shew that the **LORD** is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

Ps 92:12-15

AMEN.