

Psalm 85 - Review

In part 1 we learned that the subject/title of this great 85th Psalm is the “*Prayer for the Land of the Sanctuary*”. And while we’re not told *when* this Psalm was written, from the context of the Psalm, it was most likely during the *same* time frame that the *last* Psalm (84) was written: when David and his faithful followers were *returning* to Jerusalem, *after* Absalom’s rebellion had been put down. And that would explain why we saw the Psalmist speak of how the Lord (YHWH) was favorable to His land, for He indeed brought prosperity back to Israel once David was restored as the rightful king of Israel. And this Psalm is therefore quite prophetic of *how* abundant prosperity will be when the *rightful* King of kings (Jesus Christ) returns to the earth and takes over *all* things. But, we also learned that, in order for the land to be prosperous, God’s wrath must be turned away and the people must be forgiven. And that’s why Jesus Christ came to die for the sins of all mankind (including Israel); for He has atoned for the sins of whomsoever will accept Him *and* believes in the great Sacrifice He made (which the animal blood sacrifices were simply a type of). So, like most of the Psalms, this Psalm had a *historical* fulfillment and a *prophetic* fulfillment. And there, therefore, also *remains* a *future* ‘bringing back’ of the ‘former’ prosperity when Jesus Christ returns. For, after Jesus Christ pours out God’s ‘cup of wrath’ (at the ‘day of vengeance’) He will usher in the *great* Millennial teaching period (a thousand years) where the land (yea, the world) will prosper as we’ve not seen it since the first earth age.

In part 2 we learned quite a lot about the Gospel of Jesus Christ... in the Old Testament! For the Psalmist asked God to turn them back to Him again – and revive them spiritually - so His anger would subside and they could enjoy the peace and prosperity that comes with being in a covenantal relationship with Him. The Psalmist also asked several questions, as a figure of speech, to affirm that he was confident the Lord (YHWH) was doing just that. And that’s why he was assured that the Lord God would ‘speak peace’ to them; which means He would bless them again, after showing them mercy for their sincerely repenting and working to change their heart and mind so they would *not* turn back to folly. And this lesson is vital for us today too; for there is coming a great deception where Satan himself will try and deceive the world into worshiping him and accepting his wicked ‘beast’ governing system. So, we must make sure that we’re faithfully following the Lord (YHWH and Jesus Christ) and don’t ‘fall away’ to the lies that Satan tells when he’s here on earth (or before then). For, just as the rightful king David returned to Jerusalem after Absalom’s rebellion was put down, so too will Jesus Christ return to Jerusalem after He puts down all rebels on earth, even the Devil (Satan, the antichrist) himself. And we sure do *not* want to be found worshiping Satan (thinking he is Jesus) when the *true* Jesus Christ returns!

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.

In part 4 we saw the Psalmist again use personification to prophesy how Jesus Christ (truth) would spring out (sprout) of the earth (He was born of a virgin) while righteousness (our Heavenly Father) looked down from heaven to make sure Jesus Christ grew up and produced beautiful spiritual fruit. And this included Jesus Christ's death and resurrection; which atoned for the sins of all who would accept Him *and* redeems our souls from Satan's deceptive grasp. The Psalmist also spoke of the impacts of truth (Jesus Christ) springing out from the earth, which is that the land (even the earth) would produce *abundantly*. So, despite the fact that Israel (who were *supposed* to be enforcing righteousness in their own land and truly, even throughout the world) had (and now is again) 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. And those who faithfully serve Him will indeed be given many good things, even *eternal* life. As Isa 65:22 promised: *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands...*

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***

1 Cor 15:54-58

AMEN.