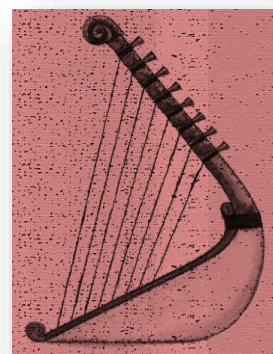


PSALM 85 vs 1

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That choice band of singers: the sons of Korah; were spared by sovereign grace, when their father and all his company, and all the children of his associates were swallowed up alive (Numbers 27); preserved, we know not why, by the favor of God. It may be assumed afterward, they were so filled with gratitude that they were driven to sacred music, in order that their lives might be consecrated to the glory of God – Charles Spurgeon. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve**



Division: this is the prayer of a patriot for his afflicted country; the poet sings of the Lord's former mercies and begs Him to remember His people (1-4); then he pleads the cause of afflicted Israel (5-7); next, having listened to the sacred oracle (8); he gladly publishes the tidings of future good (9-13).

For the Choir Director,

A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ O LORD, You favored Your earth: You brought back the captivity of Jacob.

² You forgave the crimes of Your people, You covered all their sin.

Selah, pause and think about it. Many a time had foes been baffled, pestilence stayed, famine averted and deliverance granted; so that same favorable regard is invoked; it is because He changes not, that we are not consumed – Charles Spurgeon.

³ You withdrew all Your wrath: You turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

⁴ Return us, O God of our salvation, and disrupt Your anger toward us.

/ think about it. It is not that God needs turning from His anger so much, as that we need turning from our sin; here is the hinge of the whole matter. Our trials arise from our failures; they will not go until sin goes. The God of Israel has been so rich in favor in previous years, so the psalmist asks Him to reform and restore His relapsing nation – Charles Spurgeon.

⁵ Will You be angry with us forever?

Will You extend Your anger to all generations?

⁶ Will You not again revive us: that Your people may rejoice in You?

⁷ Show us O LORD, Your mercy; and grant us Your salvation.

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God says: for He will speak peace to His people, and to those who love and trust Him: who do not revert to fools.

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/ think about it. When we believe that God hears us, it is but natural that we should be eager to hear Him. God's voice is powerful; when He speaks, it is done. And though His voice is stern with rebuke; He will not always scold. The Great Father will reassume His natural tone of gentleness and pity. Those who would enjoy communion with God must be jealous themselves, and avoid all that would grieve the Holy Spirit. There is no fool like the man who will be a fool, cost him what it may – Charles Spurgeon.

⁹ Only near to those who fear Him is His **salvation; that glory may dwell in our **earth**;**

¹⁰ when **mercy and truth meet together; rightness and peace will kiss:**

¹¹ truth springs from the **earth; and rightness looks down from heaven.**

¹² Yes, the LORD gives what is good; and our **earth yields its increase.**

¹³ Rightness goes before Him; and makes His footsteps for our path.

/ think about it. When Jesus lived among us, He said, **join Me in the way I'm going**. He does not tell us to do what He won't do. He is the way; His steps leave a track wherein His people joyfully follow. It is incorrect to think our Great Father does everything, and His children sit on their butts and do nothing. **His ten commandments were earthly promises of blessing**, they still are, giving witness to those around that there is a God in heaven. If we are not concerned about the life He has given us here on earth; why would He worry about the life He has for eternity? Here we learn: **His salvation is only near those who fear Him**; if you will not start there; you will not start. Isaiah tells us: **If He is not our fear and dread, He will not be our sanctuary**. If God's **mercy** and our **truthfulness** do not meet; then His **rightness** and our **peace** will not embrace.

This is My Father's World

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise:  **The Songlist**

The Sheep Hear His Voice And They Follow Him

You Can Depend On Jesus

O Come Let Us Adore Him

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

We Came From Where? | **The Spirit and the Bride Say Come**