

Psalm 80 A Psalm of Asaph

The petition

¹ Dear LORD,

We call upon You in prayer because You are forever enthroned in heaven. You, as pre-incarnate Christ, are the One who led the people of Israel like a flock of sheep all of these years. Please listen attentively to our prayer for help, ² then let all Israel see Your power when You come and save us. ³ LORD, show Your favor by causing Your people to repent of their sin, and we will be saved. ⁴ Almighty God, You are the great God over all. How long will you find the prayers of the people of Israel detestable? ⁵⁻⁶ You allowed a foreign nation to conquer us because we had abandoned You. Now we are so weak and powerless that we have become the object of our neighbors' ridicule. Now they laugh among themselves because they are happy that we have been conquered. You have brought so many hurts and heartaches upon us that we are constantly in tears. ⁷ LORD God of the heavenly hosts, please bring a revival in the hearts of the people, and restore our nation to its previous state. Look upon us with favor, and we will be saved from this disaster.

The former prosperity

⁸⁻⁹ You delivered the people Israel from bondage in Egypt. Then You led them to the promised land. ⁹ There You cleared all of the obstacles so that they were able to drive out their enemies. It was then that Israel became firmly established as a nation. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ Her people filled the mountains and the forests, and they were so prosperous that they spread out as far as the sea. ¹² Why, then, have You broken down her defenses so that all of the foreigners who pass by take advantage of Your people? ¹³ Even wild animals feed on her produce leaving little for Your people to eat. ¹⁴ LORD God of the heavenly hosts, please, please change Your mind about us. Look down at our pitiful condition, and rescue Your people Israel.

The promise to stay true

¹⁵ In the past You caused Israel to grow into a nation and strengthened her people. ¹⁶ Because You were angry with us You allowed foreigners to conquer her and burn her city. ¹⁷ Please bless and heal the people of Israel, and we will never abandon You again. ¹⁸ Then we will worship You in a manner deserving of Your name. ¹⁹ LORD God of the heavenly hosts, please bring a revival in the hearts of the people, and restore our nation to its previous state. Look upon us with favor, and we will be saved from this disaster.