

Psalm 85

Acknowledgment of God's Past Favor, Agony over His Present Anger, Anticipation of Future Salvation, Righteousness, and Bounty

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org).

A1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF YAHWEH'S PAST FAVOR -- RESTORING ISRAEL FROM EXILE 85:1-3

B1 Acknowledgment of Restoration from Exile 85:1

C1 Yahweh's Favor to His Land: {1} O LORD, You showed favor to Your land;

C2 Yahweh's Restoration of Jacob (Israel) from Exile: You restored the captivity¹ of Jacob.

B2 Acknowledgment of Forgiveness 85:2

C1 {2} You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C2 You covered all their sin. Selah

B3 Acknowledgment of Propitiation 85:3

C1 {3} You withdrew all Your fury;

C2 You turned away from Your burning anger.

¹ 85:1 - captivity: It is believed that this psalm was written after the return from captivity under Zerubbabel (536 BC), under whose ministry the temple was partially rebuilt. Later leaders included Haggai and Zechariah (520-515 BC), under whose ministries the temple was completed, Ezra (who returned in 458 BC), and Nehemiah (who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 445 BC). It is impossible to date this psalm precisely. In any case, the psalmist reviews God's restoration and forgiveness of Israel beginning in 536 BC as grounds for subsequent restoration. He anticipates God will respond favorably.

A2 A PLEA TO ELOHIM YAHWEH FOR PRESENT RESTORATION AND LOYAL LOVE 85:4-7

B1 The Psalmist Implores ² Elohim to Restore Israel and Restrain His Indignation 85:4

C1 Restoration: {4} Restore us, O God of our salvation,

C2 Restraint: And cause Your indignation toward us to cease.

B2 The Psalmist Queries Elohim's Interminable Anger 85:5

C1 Interminable Ire? {5} Will You be angry with us forever?

C2 Anger Generation after Generation? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

B3 The Psalmist Queries as to Whether Elohim Will Return and Give Life to His People 85:6

C1 Revival: {6} Will You not Yourself revive us again,

C2 Rejoicing: That Your people may rejoice in You?

B4 The Psalmist Implores ³ Yahweh to Demonstrate His Loyal Love and Salvation 85:7

C1 Causing Israel to See His Loyal Love: {7} Show us Your lovingkindness, O LORD,

C2 Giving His Salvation: And grant us Your salvation.

A3 ANTICIPATION OF ELOHIM YAHWEH'S SALVATION 85:8-13

B1 Anticipation of Salvation 85:8-9

C1 Anticipation of Elohim Yahweh's Peaceful Response toward the Godly 85:8

D1 Listening for response: {8} I will hear what God the LORD will say;

D2 Anticipation of peace; For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones;

D3 Warning against apostasy: But let them not turn back to folly.

² 5:4 Title - Restore: Both *restore* and *cause* (your indignation) *to cease* are imperatives. The Psalmist is imploring God to act.

³ Implores - 85:7 Title: *Show us* (lit. cause us to see) (your lovingkindness [loyal love]) is also an imperative. The psalmist is imploring Yahweh to cause Israel to see His loyal love! *Grant us* (lit. give us) is an imperfect, which in context, carries the force of an imperative, though not as strongly.

C2 Anticipation of Salvation and Glory 85:9

D1 Anticipation of salvation for the God-fearing: {9} Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

D2 Anticipation of Elohim Yahweh's glory in Israel's land: That glory may dwell in our land.

B2 The Anticipated Intersection of Personified Loyal Love, Truth, Righteousness, and Peace! 85:10-11

C1 {10} Lovingkindness and truth have met together;

C2 Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C3 {11} Truth springs from the earth,

C4 And righteousness looks down from heaven.

B3 The Anticipated Results in the Land 85:12-13

C1 Yahweh's Blessing: {12} Indeed, the LORD will give what is good,

C2 Productive Land: And our land will yield its produce.

C3 Righteous Regime 85:13

D1 {13} Righteousness will go before Him

D2 And will make His footsteps into a way.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 85

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

October, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)