

Psalm 80 – Hope in the Middle of Disappointment

In exile, God's people are processing the perceived loss of their cherished status as God's chosen people (12-16). But within that context is a desperation of hope, that God will turn once again to his people with restoration. It is a psalm of trust that encourages us to hold on to hope in the midst of loss.

Reverence

The Lord is the Shepherd of Israel. He leads his people like a flock and sits enthroned over all things (1, 8-11). How can you praise God for being your Shepherd?

- Lord, I praise you for being my Shepherd and leading me in...
- God, thank you for guiding my life when...

Response

The psalmist calls upon God to return to them and watch over them (14), displaying a penitent sense of trust in God. How can we respond to God in penitent trust?

- Father, I turn to you in trust that you will watch over me in...
- Lord God, hear my cries as I call out to you about...

Requests

The psalmist calls upon God for restoration three times (3, 7, 19) and explicitly locates salvation in God four times (3, 7, 19 and 1). How can we pray for the salvation of others?

- Sovereign God, please lead [...] into salvation
- O God, restore [...] so that...

Readiness

Restoration is a key theme throughout this psalm. He prays for restoration so that they might be saved. How can we pray for restoration, along with a spiritual result?

- Father, restore me in [...] so that [...]
- Lord God, revive your church so that...