

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 • Read Psalm 80**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Into whose hands was this Psalm committed (superscript)? With what instructions? Who penned it? What does he ask God to do (v1a)? What does he call Him? How does He lead Joseph? What else does he call Him (v1b)? What else does he ask Him to do? Before whom (v2a) do they ask Him to do what (v2c) by doing what (v2b)? What else do they ask Him to do (v3a, c) by doing what (v3b)? What does he call God in v4a? Why is this such a problem (v4b)? With what, specifically, is He angry (v4c)? How does v5 describe the constancy and completeness of the chastening? What effect has this had (v6)? What request is repeated in v7 (cf. v3)? As what do vv8–13 describe Israel? From where did He bring them (v8a)? Where did He put them (v8b)? What did He do for them (v9)? How much did they grow (v10–11)? But what has God done now (v12–13)? What does the psalmist ask Him to do now (v14, cf. v3, 7)? What is his strongest argument (v15)? Who has ultimately done this (v16)? What does the psalmist ask Him to do instead now (v17)? What effect will this son of man have (v18)? What is the ultimate request of the Psalm (v19, cf. v3, 7, 14)?*

**What hope can there be for those who have sinned against grace?** Psalm 80 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these nineteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **those who have sinned against grace can yet find hope in the God of grace, at the throne of grace, through the man of grace.**

**Grace to begin with,** v8–11. What is the difference between Egypt, the nations, and Israel? The Lord decided to save Israel. Egypt and the Canaanites deserved what they received. But v4 reminds us that the same is true of Israel. Choosing them and saving them was sheer grace. The Lord did it simply for the love in which He decided to take Israel for Himself (v15) as His own covenant people (v4c).

**Sin against grace,** v5–6, 12–13, 16. Clearly, it is the Lord Who has been angry with them (v4), punished them (v5), humbled them (v6), exposed them (v12–13), and rebuked them (v16). He is not a fickle God; clearly they have sinned greatly against Him. The problem, in all of their sin, is that it has been a "turning back from" God (v18a).

**Grace that prayer can still lay hold of,** v1–3, 7, 14, 19. The refrain in v3, 7, 19 is identical, and it draws its hope from the very place from which the Lord has made His presence most known to Israel: "dwelling upon the cherubim" (v1b). It is this "shining forth" that gives rise to the repeated plea, "Cause Your face to shine." The shining of His face, of course, is the smile of His countenance, the glorious blessing that He pronounced upon His people through the mouth of the priest (cf. Num 6:22–27). It is exactly counter to their current experience of the rebuke of His countenance (cf. v16).

Despite all that the Lord has taken from this psalmist, and those singing with him and the choirmaster, He has maintained to them one glorious thing: the sense and the knowledge that even in chastening, God is still listening. That He Who planted and made them strong for Himself (v15) isn't done with them yet. O that the Lord would always maintain to us this reflex and recourse: to turn to the Lion Who has wounded us, but Who is our only hope of healing (cf. Hos 5:13–6:3)!

**Grace that still lays hold of us,** v17–18. The secret of prayer is not that it strongly lays hold of God, but that it lays hold of God Who is strong. It's not so much our laying hold of grace, but grace laying hold of us. The only way that we can stop turning back from God (v18a) is by God's laying His hand upon us in Christ (v17a) to make us strong for Himself in Christ (v17b).

In the end, Jesus describes Himself as the true Vine (cp. Jn 15:1–11) and the ultimate Son of Man (cp. Dan 7:13, Mt 26:64, Lk 21:27). He is Israel as she ought to have been, the suffering servant from latter Isaiah, Who atones for and succeeds in the place of the failed servant-vine from early Isaiah (cp. Isa 5:1–7).

And it is in Jesus that God lays hold of us to give us forgiveness and repentance. Indeed, when we consider the end of v18, we conclude that God is already answering the prayer of this psalm. For, it is only by God's grace that they would genuinely call upon Him to begin with! Dear believer, when you pray from your weakness, do you not see that what is moving you to pray is not so much your weakness as it is God's strength?

In what ways might you be turning from God to your own ways or to lesser things? In what ways might your family? In what ways might your church? What has been your experience of the reflex to call upon His Name? Where does that come from? If you haven't been, where can it come from?

*Sample prayer: Lord, hear us, as we pray and sing and read and hear and look to You for Your grace! Truly, only by the Son of Man Whom You made strong for Yourself can we even pray in the first place. Shine forth from Your throne above the cherubim, strengthen us in Christ, and give us life to call upon Your Name. Shine Your face on us by Your Spirit, so that we will see the light of the knowledge of Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, through Whom we ask it, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP80 "Hear, O Hear Us" or TPH80B "Great Shepherd, Who Leadest"

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Psalm 80 these are the words of God. To the chief musician, set to the lilies. A testimony of ASAP a psalm. Give your or shepherd of Israel. You who lead Joseph like a flock. You, who dwell between the cherubine shine forth. Before Ephraim Benjamin and Manassa. Stir up your strength and come and save us.

Restore us. O God. Cause your face to shine. And we shall be saved. Oh, y'all. They god of host. How long will you be angry against the prayer of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears. And giving them tears to drink in great measure. You have made us a strife to our neighbors.

And our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us. Oh, God of hosts. Cause your face to shine. And we shall be saved. You have brought a vine out of Egypt. You give cast out the nations and playing today. You prepared room for it. Caused it to take deep root and it filled the land.

The hills were covered with its shadow. On the mighty cedars with its bows. She sent her out, her bows to the sea. And our branches to the river. Why have you broken down her hedges? So that all who passed by the way, pluck her fruit. The boar out of the woods upwards, it and the wild beast of the field devours.

It Return. We beseech you O God of hosts. Look down from heaven and see and visit this vine. And the vineyard which your right hand has planted. And the branch that you have made strong for yourself. What does burned with fire? It is cut down. They perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand. Upon the son of man. Whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will not turn back from you. Revive us, and we will call upon your name. Restore us or you always got a hosts. Cuz your face to shine.

And we shall. Be saved. Amanda's far the reading of God's inspired and Inherent word.

What is realism? Great trouble in this song. The refrain and verse 3, and verse 7 and verse 19 there at the end, restore us. Oh god. Cause your face to shine and we shall be saved. And We here in the other parts of the psalm. Some of the greatness of that trouble.

But one of the great. One of the reasons for the great trouble, part of the greatness of the trouble, Is that they're not like other nations that are suffering and miserable and under the judgment of god? Because Israel was a nation of grace. Was a nation that God delivered.

From out out from among the other nations, the nation that God displaced other nations to put them. In their place a nation that God took to be his own special people. And gave them good loss. And they send against him. Despite All of this grace. Answer the first thing that we see.

That is that they were shown grace to begin with. The second thing is that they have sinned against grace. And this. Is a help to us because we have been shown great grace. We are a house that knows the Lord to be. The god of our house, we have heard the gospel.

All of us but one thus far have Professed faith in Jesus Christ. We know him not only to be the covenant god of his church and the covenant God of our house. But our own Creator and redeemer. I wanted whom we have life, the one who's spirit is the holy spirit, who is with us.

Helps us the one in whom we have the father and the adoption by which we may call him Our father. And so, we have been shown Great grace, and all of our sins are sins against grace. And that's probably one of the things that troubles you, and you realize I thought you have been sending.

Whether it's a sin that you commit with your eyes, or Commit with your tongue. You come under conviction. How about the way you talk about others or perhaps talk to others? Incentive grumbling. Discontentment unthankfulness. There are many things that Slip under the radar for us. For a while, when we come under conviction, we realize that we've been doing it.

And we're greatly troubled and grieved and a big part of the trouble for for us. When we are in that situation. Is that our setting has been sitting against grace. After all that God has done for me, after all that God has taught me. Shall I still send in this way?

Can do I still, how could I still? Do this. And so when we see in this song, this prayer, How are those who have sinned against the grace of god? But what hope can they have? And the answer, of course, is More grace. For those who have sinned against grace.

The hope is in the same God, who has already shown us the grace. The hope is in his glory. But that he will act for the sake of his own name. I and especially. For the sake of The son of man, whom he made strong for himself that. The Lord Jesus is the true Israel.

Have the Lord Jesus. Is the son of man in whom, We may belong to the lord god, and we'll hear about that. There in the fourth place. So we've been shunning Grace, they were shown grace. You see that, especially in verses 8 through 11. You brought out of your a vine out of Egypt you cast out the nations and planted it.

You prepared room for it. Caused it to take deep root and it filled the land. The hills were covered with its shadow of the mighty cedars with its bows. She sent out her bows to the sea and her branches to the river. And so, The Lord. Has shown them, great love, and Great grace.

They are His people, he has chosen them. For himself. Egypt deserved. To be destroyed, the Canaanites deserve to be destroyed Israel. Also. Deserve to be destroyed. God is righteously angry even now With their prayers. Verse 4, even now at the time that this was written, With their prayers. And so, they deserved what all the other?

Nations received. And yet god for the love in which he decided to take Israel. For himself. The Vineyard which is right hand planted the branch that he made strong for himself. Verse 15. It was for his own sake for his own pleasure. For his own. Love you remember. Deuteronomy 7, and it was not because you were great that y'all loved you.

But he loved you, because The answer is Deuteronomy is because he loved you. And so it was all of Grace and they have sinned. Against this grace. Will you already mentioned in verse 4? Got angry with a prayer. Of his people. Feeding them, with bread, of tears, giving them tears to drink in great measure, or beyond measure.

Verse 5. Making them a approach and a strife. In verse 6.

Exposing them, removing their protection, verse 12 and verse 13. Breaking down their hedges. So that all who passed by may pluck the fruit, or the bore of the woods are put it and this is, of course, the illustration being a vine. The wild beast of the field devouring. It.

And all of this, because They are worthy of rebuke for 16. It is burned with fire. It has cut down. They perish at the rebuke. Of your countenance. And so does especially this rebuke language, that we know that all of the rest of those things that we saw. And versus five and six and verses 12 to 13.

That's the Lord's correcting them for sin. The Lord does rebuke and correct and afflict churches for sin. Are we read this quite often? If the Lord's table for instance, 1 Corinthians 11. And how in the Corinthian Church many were ill because of their sin against the body. And blood of the Lord and in the supper in the public worship.

Some of them have died. We're listening to that series of sermons. By dr. Beeke and Beginning of Revelation. Where the Lord Jesus threatens the churches to remove their lamp stands and so forth. Or some of them. And we know that. That churches nations families. People. May come under the Disciplining rebuking hand of God.

Especially if we are his children. The Lord made pour out wrath on those who are not his children. I bet those who are his children should expect to be disciplined. This is what he says. And Hebrews chapter 12. So we see that they began by grace, we see that they send against grace.

But we also see. That even under the chastening under the rebuking. Disciplining hand of God. Prayer still looks to lay hold. Of his grace. Verse 4. Asks, oh, y'all a god of host. How long will you be angry against the prayer of your people? We might think Well, if Under.

The disciplining hand of god under the chastening of god. He may be angry with the prayer of his people. Maybe we shouldn't pray. But what will you do that? Where will you find? Help Is there anywhere else to go? And do you not know? That Jesus Christ. The one who said his blood and suffered wrath in our place.

But he is the one who sits. Upon the throne of. Glory and has made it for us. A throne of grace. But even as the It's almost rights even as ASAP rights long before. Our mediator took his seat upon the throne. Isn't the Holy spirit carrying him along to pray.

Even in this condition and to write a prayer. For the church under inspiration. Is that demonstrates that Even when it doesn't seem that prayer is working or that prayer is being heard. Even when you have sinned in such a way that you have, no, right to expect that your prayer will be favorably.

Heard on high still, you must pray. You, you may when you have sinned against the grace of God. You are still to turn to god in prayer and they hold by faith of that same grace and the Lord Jesus Christ and dependence upon the Holy spirit seeking and looking for The favor.

Of God, the Father. And so, verse 3 for 7:19 the refrain restore us. Oh god, cause your face to shine. And we shall be safe. Looking not to themselves that they would repent enough that their prayer. Would lost then be heard on high. I will never repent well enough to make our prayer hurt on high.

But not looking to what is in us. But as we repent looking to what is in God, looking to him to restore looking for the smile of his face and his favor. Looking for his salvation. Verse 3. Over 7. And verse 19. And so you see also in verse 14, similarly return, we beseech, you, god of us.

Look down from heaven and see And visit the visit this fine. So he pictures God in heaven in verse 14 but that's not the in the first place that we see him remembering. And looking to God, look at verse 1, give ear a shepherd of Israel. You who lead Joseph like a flock, you who dwell between the cherubim Shine Fourth.

Now. Where are these cherubim That he is supposedly dwelling in between. Or to be more precise although it's okay to use the Bible language. Obviously, he uses it that way to help us where he makes his presence known. The cherubim are on the mercy seat, aren't they? And so he knows God to be the one to whom heaven and the highest heavens can't contain and of course he knows.

Is that the temple cannot contain him or the holy of holies? But he knows that God has communicated his presence to his people, especially. In that holy of holies above that box. That is the ark of the testimony. Where is the mercy seat, the atonement cover for the box when the Caribbean built into it and where the blood of the atonement from the day of a tournament.

And so he's he's taking encouragement in prayer. Think about it. He is praying on behalf of a people who have sinned against the grace of god, where can he find encouragement for prayer? Where can you find encouragement to emperor? He finds it from the fact that it has pleased, God.

To atone, for his people's sins. And to make the mercy seat. The place where he makes his presence most intensely and completely known. To his people. When you come to God through Jesus Christ, you have something even better, don't you? Has the New Testament says Jesus is our mercy seat.

And so we come to the throne of grace when we come to God through Jesus. Because we come to him who is the mercy seat? We come to him. Also who sits on the throne the Lord. Jesus being God and man. Our Lord, our Creator, our redeemer and also Our mediator.

And really hold of him. And it wasn't him that we have the blessing. Of numbers 6. Especially the lifting up of his countenance, upon us and the shining Of his face upon us. The current experiences for 16 the rebuke of his countenance. But what they are praying for and what they have hope for.

Is the shining smile. Of his countenance because of atonement. And it's not just, That our prayer lays hold of god's grace. But it's our hope that God's grace still lays. Hold of us, look at verse 17 and 18. Let your right hand be upon the sorry. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand upon the son of man.

Whom you have made strong for yourself. So he has not just made Israel, strong for himself for 15. But there was a son of man, a mediator, The Lord Jesus whom he is making strong for himself for 17. And remember how we were hearing about the difference between John's baptism which said you need repentance.

And Christian baptism, which is especially not the water baptism that we receive. But the Lord Jesus is pouring out his holy spirit. And he gives us the water baptism. That is Christian baptism. To remind us. That not as John's baptism did that we need repentance but in baptism in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy spirit that the triune sovereign god has intended from all eternity to save us.

Has a toned for us and accomplished, our redemption of the cross and the Sun. And that he is now applying his redemption to us by the spirit and that we may have repentance from the Lord Jesus. So he says, in verse 17, let your hand be upon the man of your right hand.

Numbers 18, then we will not turn back from you. So not. Look, we are turning back to you. So be gracious to us, but if you would be gracious to us, if you would give us repentance by your strength, Then we would be able, we will be enabled. Not to, we will be able to repent.

So the Lord Jesus, of course, is the true Israel and the true vine. You remember, not just here but in Isaiah, Chapter 5. The the vine that was a failure, but at the end of Isaiah, as we are hearing, even in the Sabbath school, this week Jesus is the true Israel.

Isaiah 49 I believe that was. Jesus is the true Israel. And what does he announce himself to be in John 15? He says, I am the true vine. And you are the branches. And so God has laid his hand. Upon. The man of his right hand, the son of man.

And he made strong for himself, even the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is in Jesus that you may have repentance. He is the glorious one. In whom you may have life to hate your sin. And to kill yourself. And to offer yourself to God as a slave. For righteousness.

So where can we look for Grace? Where can we look for help when we have sinned against grace? We can look for help to the grace of god. At the throne of

grace. In the man of grace. Hey man. Let's pray. My father in heaven, we pray that you would help us by your spirit Especially when we come into times where We're overwhelmed with a greatness of our sin and how much more heinous it is because of the greatness of the grace.

That you have shown us and against which we send when we send And we pray that you would remind us. That we may still look to you for grace. At your throne of grace. In the Lord Jesus. The man, the god man of grace. And so we pray that your spirit would remind our hearts of these things that we would ever be looking to you.

And we do pray that you would lay your hand upon him. Upon the Lord Jesus for our sakes. And that you would make us strong with his life. And that we would then not turn back from you. Revive us. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.