

## Psalm 80 A Prayer for Restoration

CHARACTERS: Asaph, ALL, groups A & B

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 80

ASAPH: Listen, Shepherd of Israel, who leads Joseph like a flock;

GROUP A: You who sit enthroned on the cherubim,

ALL: rise up!

GROUP B: Rally Your power and come to save us.

ALL: Restore us, God;

GROUP A: Look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

ASAPH: Lord God of Hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

GROUP B: You fed them the bread of tears and gave them a full measure of tears to drink.

ASAPH: You make us quarrel with our neighbors; our enemies make fun of us.

ALL: Restore us, God of Hosts; look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

ASAPH: You uprooted a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it.

ALL: You cleared a place for it; it took root and filled the land.

ASAPH: The mountains were covered by its shade, and the mighty cedars with its branches.

GROUP A: It sent out sprouts toward the Sea and shoots toward the River.

ALL: Why have You broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its fruit?

ASAPH: The boar from the forest tears it and creatures of the field feed on it.

ALL: Return, God of Hosts.

ASAPH: Look down from heaven and see;

ALL: take care of this vine,

GROUP B: Then we will not turn away from You;

ALL: revive us, and we will call on Your name.

ASAPH: Restore us, Yahweh, the God of Hosts;

ALL: look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

## Psalm 81 Blessing Follows Obedience

CHARACTERS: Asaph, ALL, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 81

ASAPH: Sing for joy to God our strength;

ALL: (*shouting*) shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.

VOICE OF GOD: You called out in distress, and I rescued you; I answered you from the thundercloud. I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

ASAPH: There must not be a strange god among you;

ALL: you must not bow down to a foreign god.

VOICE OF GOD: I am Yahweh your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

ASAPH: But the people did not listen to God or obey Him.

VOICE OF GOD: So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own plans. (*sigh*) If only My people would listen to Me and would follow My ways,

ALL: God would quickly subdue our enemies and turn his hand against our foes.

ASAPH: Those who hate the Lord would pretend submission to Him;

ALL: their doom would last forever.

ASAPH: But He would feed us with the best wheat.

VOICE OF GOD: I would satisfy you with honey from the rock.

## Psalm 82 A Plea for Righteous Judgment

CHARACTERS: Asaph, ALL,

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 82

ASAPH: God has taken His place in the divine assembly;

ALL: He judges among the gods:

VOICE OF GOD: How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

ASAPH: Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless;

ALL: uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.

ASAPH: Rescue the poor and needy;

ALL: save them from the power of the wicked.

ASAPH: Rise up, God, judge the earth,

ALL: for all the nations belong to You.

## Psalm 83 Prayer against Enemies

CHARACTERS: Asaph, ALL, Group A & B, Enemy

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 83

*Before you read background: This Psalm summarizes several events in Judges such as the Israelites cried out to the Lord, because Jabin had 900 iron chariots, and he harshly oppressed them 20 years. (4:3) While Sisera was sleeping from exhaustion, Heber's wife Jael took a tent peg, grabbed a hammer, and went silently to Sisera. She hammered the peg into his temple and drove it into the ground, and he died. (4:21) The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord handed them over to Midian seven years, and they oppressed Israel. (6:1-2) Gideon captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two princes of Midian; they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb, while they were pursuing the Midianites. (7:25) Gideon got up, killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on the necks of their camels. (8:21)*

ASAPH: God, do not keep silent.

ALL: Do not be deaf, God; do not be idle.

ASAPH: See how Your enemies make an uproar; those who hate You have acted arrogantly.

GROUP A: They devise clever schemes against Your people;

GROUP B: they conspire against Your treasured ones.

ENEMY: Come, let us wipe them out as a nation so that Israel's name will no longer be remembered.

ALL: The enemies have conspired with one mind; they form an alliance against You—

ASAPH: Deal with them as You did with Midian,

ALL: as You did with Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River.

GROUP A: They were destroyed at En-dor;

GROUP B: they became manure for the ground.

GROUP A: Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,

GROUP B: and all their tribal leaders like Zebah and Zalmunna,

ENEMY: Let us seize God's pastures for ourselves.

ALL: Make them like tumbleweed, my God, like straw before the wind.

ASAPH: As fire burns a forest, as a flame blazes through mountains, so pursue them with Your

Tempest and terrify them with Your storm.

GROUP A: Cover their faces with shame so that they will seek Your name Yahweh.

GROUP B: Let them be put to shame and terrified forever; let them perish in disgrace.

ASAPH: May they know that You alone— whose name is Yahweh—

ALL: are the Most High over all the earth.

## Psalm 84 Longing for God's House

CHARACTERS: Son of Korah 1 & 2, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 84

SON 1: How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord of Hosts.

ALL: I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord;

SON 2: my heart and flesh cry out for the living God.

SON 1: Even a sparrow finds a home, and a swallow, a nest for herself where she places her young—

ALL: near Your altars, Lord of Hosts, my King and my God.

SON 2: How happy are those who reside in Your house, who praise You continually.

ALL: Happy are the people whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

SON 1: Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer;

ALL: listen, God of Jacob.

SON 2: Consider our shield, God;

SON 1: look on the face of Your anointed one.

ALL: Better a day in Your courts than a thousand anywhere else.

SON 2: I would rather be at the door of the house of my God than to live in the tents of wicked people.

ALL: For the Lord God is a sun and shield.

SON 1: The Lord gives grace and glory;

ALL: He does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.

SON 2: Happy is the person who trusts in You, Lord of Hosts!

## Psalm 85 Restoration of Favor

CHARACTERS: Son of Korah 1 & 2, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 85

SON 1: Lord, You showed favor to Your land;

ALL: You took away Your people's guilt;

SON 1: You covered all their sin.

SON 2: You withdrew all Your fury;

ALL: You turned from Your burning anger.

SON 2: Return to us, God of our salvation, and abandon Your displeasure with us.

ALL: Will You be angry with us forever?

SON 1: Will You prolong Your anger for all generations?

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

SON 1: Show us Your faithful love, Lord, and give us Your salvation.

SON 2: I will listen to what God will say;

ALL: Surely, the Lord will declare peace to His people, His godly ones, and not let them go back to

foolish ways.

SON 2: His salvation is very near those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land.

ALL: Faithful love and truth will join together;

SON 1: righteousness and peace will embrace.

ALL: Truth will spring up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

SON 2: Also, the Lord will provide what is good, and our land will yield its crops.

ALL: Righteousness will go before Him to prepare the way for His steps.

## Psalm 86 Hear my Prayer

CHARACTERS: David, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 86

DAVID: Listen, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

ALL: Protect my life, for I am faithful.

DAVID: You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You.

ALL: Be gracious to me, Lord, for I call to You all day long.

DAVID: Bring joy to Your servant's life, because I turn to You, Lord.

ALL: For You, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, rich in faithful love to all who call on You.

DAVID: Lord, hear my prayer; listen to my plea for mercy.

ALL: I call on You in the day of my distress, for You will answer me.

DAVID: Lord, there is no one like You among the gods, and there are no works like Yours.

ALL: All the nations You have made will come and bow down before You, Lord, and will honor Your name.

DAVID: For You are great and perform wonders;

ALL: You alone are God.

DAVID: Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

ALL: Give me an undivided mind to fear Your name.

DAVID: I will praise You with all my heart, Lord my God, and will honor Your name forever.

ALL: For Your faithful love for me is great, and You deliver my life from the depths of Sheol.

DAVID: God, arrogant people have attacked me; a gang of ruthless men seeks my life.

ALL: They have no regard for You.

DAVID: But You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,

ALL: slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth.

DAVID: Turn to me and be gracious to me.

ALL: Give Your strength to Your servant;

DAVID: save the son of Your female servant.

ALL: Show me a sign of Your goodness;

DAVID: my enemies will see and be put to shame

ALL: because You, Lord, have helped and comforted me.

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## Psalm 87 Zion, the City of God

CHARACTERS: Son of Korah 1 & 2, ALL, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 87

SON 1: His foundation is on the holy mountains.

ALL: The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

SON 2: Glorious things are said about you, city of God.

VOICE OF GOD: I will mention those who know Me: Rahab, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush— each one was born there.

SON 1: And it will be said of Zion,

VOICE OF GOD: This one and that one were born in her.

ALL: The Most High Himself will establish her.

SON 2: When He registers the peoples, the Lord will record,

VOICE OF GOD: This one was born there.

SON 1: Singers and dancers alike will say,

ALL: My whole source of joy is in you.

## Psalm 88 A Cry of Desperation

CHARACTERS: Son of Korah 1 & 2, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 88

SON 1: Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out before You day and night.

ALL: May my prayer reach Your presence; listen to my cry.

SON 1: For I have had enough troubles, and my life is near Sheol.

ALL: I am counted among those going down to the Pit.

SON 2: I am like a man without strength, abandoned among the dead.

ALL: I am like the slain lying in the grave, whom You no longer remember, and who are cut off from Your care.

SON 2: You have put me in the lowest part of the Pit, in the darkest places, in the depths.

ALL: Your wrath weighs heavily on me;

SON 2: You have overwhelmed me with all Your waves.

ALL: You have distanced my friends from me;

SON 1: You have made me repulsive to them.

ALL: I am shut in and cannot go out.

SON 2: My eyes are worn out from crying.

ALL: Lord, I cry out to You all day long;

SON 1: I spread out my hands to You.

ALL: Do You work wonders for the dead?

SON 2: Do departed spirits rise up to praise You?

ALL: Will Your faithful love be declared in the grave, or Your faithfulness in Abaddon?

SON 1: Will Your wonders be known in the darkness or Your righteousness in the land of oblivion?

ALL: But I call to You for help, Lord; in the morning, my prayer meets You.

SON 1: Lord, why do You reject me?

SON 2: Why do You hide Your face from me?

ALL: From my youth, I have been afflicted and near death.

SON 2: I suffer Your horrors; I am desperate.

ALL: Your wrath sweeps over me;

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SON 1: Your terrors destroy me.

ALL: They surround me like water all day long;

SON 2: they close in on me from every side.

SON 1: You have distanced loved one and neighbor from me;

ALL: darkness is my only friend.

## Psalm 89 A Powerful God's Promises

CHARACTERS: Ethan the Ezrahite, ALL, David, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 89

ETHAN: I will sing about the Lord's faithful love forever;

ALL: I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations

ETHAN: Faithful love is built up forever

ALL: You establish Your faithfulness in the heavens.

ETHAN: Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders—

ALL: Your faithfulness also—

ETHAN: For who in the skies can compare with the Lord?

ALL: Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord?

ETHAN: God is greatly feared in the council of the holy ones,

ALL: more awe-inspiring than all who surround Him.

ETHAN: Lord God of Hosts, who is strong like You, Lord?

ALL: Your faithfulness surrounds You.

ETHAN: You rule the raging sea;

ALL: when its waves surge, You still them.

ETHAN: You scattered Your enemies with Your powerful arm.

ALL: The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours.

ETHAN: The world and everything in it—You founded them.

ALL: North and south—You created them.

ETHAN: You have a mighty arm; Your hand is powerful; Your right hand is lifted high.

ALL: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

ETHAN: faithful love and truth go before You.

ALL: Happy are the people who know the joyful shout;

ETHAN: Yahweh, they walk in the light of Your presence.

ALL: They rejoice in Your name all day long, and they are exalted by Your righteousness.

ETHAN: For You are their magnificent strength;

ALL: Surely our shield belongs to the Lord,

ETHAN: About our king, the Holy One of Israel says,

VOICE OF GOD: I have granted help to a warrior; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

ALL: You anointed him with sacred oil.

VOICE OF GOD: My hand will always be with him, and My arm will strengthen him.

ALL: The enemy will not afflict him;

VOICE OF GOD: My faithfulness and love will be with him, and through My name, his horn will be exalted. I will extend his power to the sea and his right hand to the rivers.

DAVID: You are my Father, my God, the rock of my salvation.

VOICE OF GOD: I will also make him My firstborn, greatest of the kings of the earth. 28 I will always

preserve My faithful love for him, and My covenant with him will endure.

ALL: What if his sons forsake your instruction or dishonor your statutes?

VOICE OF GOD: Then I will call their rebellion to account with the rod, their sin with blows.

ALL: Will you withdraw your faithful love from him?

VOICE OF GOD: I will not change what My lips have said. Once and for all I have sworn an oath by My holiness;

I will not lie to David. His offspring will continue forever, his throne like the sun before Me,

ALL: like the moon, established forever, a faithful witness in the sky.

ETHAN: How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever?

ALL: Will Your anger keep burning like fire?

ETHAN: Remember how short my life is.

ALL: Have You created everyone for nothing?

ETHAN: What man can live and never see death?

ALL: Who can save himself from the power of Sheol?

ETHAN: Lord, where are the former acts of Your faithful love that You swore to David in Your faithfulness?

ALL: Remember, Lord, the ridicule against Your servants—

ETHAN: In my heart, I carry abuse from all the peoples—

ALL: how Your enemies have ridiculed, Lord,

ETHAN: how they have ridiculed every step of Your anointed.

ALL: May the Lord be praised forever. Amen and amen.