

Psalm Meditations – Psalm 80

The column on the right is not a paraphrase or translation, but a possible prayer that generally follows the Scripture provided in the left column. This is designed to model direct engagement with God in your inner being and to be used as a guide to meditate on God's word. Feel free to use your own words, to expound or change what's provided, or write out your own response as you spend time with God each day.

80 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the
cherubim, shine forth.
² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!
³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
⁴ O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your
people's prayers?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full
measure.
⁶ You make us an object of contention for
our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its
shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
¹² Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its
fruit?
¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

You are the good shepherd. The one who
cares for the sheep. You have cared for Israel
from day 1 and today I am a part of your
flock, and you care for me. When I call you
give me your attention. I have your ear at a
beckons call.
The world is filled with the schemes of Satan,
arise, O Lord, stir and make your might and
glory known. Come to save the church, your
people.
Restore your people, restore me in my soul
that I may experience and know your
salvation, that I may see it in my life and in
the lives of your people.
I know my prayers and the prayers of your
people can anger you when we seek frivolous
things. We can find ourselves in a place
where we are going through the motions and
our actions are not those of a Christian. More
and more we are at odds with the people
around us due to our lack of focus on your
kingdom and what you desire.
Restore us and restore me that your face will
shine upon us.
Remember when you brought your people out
of Egypt. You delivered them that they might
be a living vine and a blessing to the world.
You delivered them, cared for them, brought
them to the promised land you prepared. You
prepared for them to spiritually flourish and
to know and love you in an ever-abounding
relationship. It is no different today. I see the
same love and same care for your people.
Your promises still stand.

¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for
yourself.
¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut
it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of your
right hand,
the son of man whom you have made
strong for yourself!
¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your
name!
¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

But when we do not walk the path and we
disregard your law and grace then our walls
crumble. For you are our refuge and you are
our walls of strength. If we abandon you then
we are exposed to the world and our souls
feel the distress of this world while losing
hope.
Turn your eyes toward your people. Look at
this vineyard you have made and planted and
the way the world persecutes your people.
May those who do evil toward you and your
people find your wrath before them.
Through Jesus, the Son of Man, the one you
have made strong for us, shine forth and be
our front and rear guard. And we will call
upon your name and we will turn toward you
again and find life.
Restore! Shine your face on us. May we know
your salvation day to day!