

Bible Study ~ June 2022

PSALMS: The Character of GOD

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GOD'S Character is known by *Providence*, **GOD** seeing before...

Providence is **GOD'S** ability to see beforehand... **GOD** knows (**OMINSCIENT**) and is able to see all that is going to happen and beforehand has determined how it will be used for **HIS** purpose and **Glory**.

(Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **GOD**, to them who are the called according to **HIS** purpose.")

Tonight, we continue Chapter 5 of our Book, Psalms 84-88 page 59-70; the title...

"GOD'S Presence Offered [provided, put forward, always there] to All Who Turn to HIM!"

Our *focus* tonight is on Psalm 85, again ascribed to 'the sons of Korah, [Levites assigned to guard the 'threshold'] of **The Temple of GOD!** (I Chronicles 9: 19)

Sub-Theme: **"Results of Experiencing GOD'S Presence!"** [pages 64-65 of the Book]

Q. When you feel the lack of a close relationship with **GOD**, who moved, you or **GOD**? Pg.64

Read: Matthew 28: 20b... "...and, lo, I AM with you always..." ['lo,' adj, in the Greek means, look, see, behold, observe, be sure to see.] **Point:** when we walk in disobedience, neglect

The Bible revealing our true selves, neglecting Worship, neglecting Prayer, then our **Faith** turns to *doubts* and *fears*. Why? We've moved away from **GOD!** Ecclesiastes 12: 7

Q. In Psalm 85: 4, (the Author says on page 64, suggests that the Psalmist is "pleading with **GOD** to return.") But who left, **GOD** or the Psalmist? Why?

Answer. Charles Wesley hymn says, "**FATHER** I stretch my hands to **THEE!** No other help I know. If **THY** withdraw **THYSELF** from me, whether shall I go?" **Read Psalm 88: 9 and John 6: 66-69**

In Psalm 85, **GOD'S** people are seen "returning" to their home-land... after 70 years in Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 29). Q. Who left Who? ***GOD** gave them '**FAVOR**' with their captors...

***GOD** raised up Leaders in their captivity like Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the High Priest, Ezra the scribe... ***GOD** forgave their sins and gave them 'a New Beginning'... ***GOD** protected the 'remnant' as they traveled through war-ravaged lands on their way home.

Note, "land" in vss. 1, 9. 12...

Psalm 85 gives us "*instructions*" to follow, after, times of '*failures*' and '*chastening's*.'

Instruction 1 – Vss. 1-3, Give Thanks to The LORD!

[Note page 61 of the Book – *Pause and Praise*] WHY?

--v. 1, "...brought back..." (**REDEEMED**)

--v. 3, "...turned..." from **THY** anger

--v. 4, "...turn us..." to **HIS** salvation

--v. 8, "...let me not turn again to folly [keep me **LORD**; help me **LORD!**]

Instruction 2 – Vss. 4-7, Ask **The LORD** for Renewed Life!

New Birth, New Beginning, New Freedom! But this is one thing. A New *Individual* is another! Note “us” in verse 4, *two* times; verse 5, *one* time; verse 6, *one* time; verse 7, *two* times; v. 13, 1 time. (seven-times) the people of **GOD** are *praying*... “turn” (restore) “us.”

You’ve heard it said, “a *change* in geography will never overcome a flaw in *character*.” Or “You can take a *man* out of the country, but you cannot take the country out of the *man*.” Point: the *return* of the people of **GOD** was no guarantee that all would *return* to **The LORD**.

Q. What *one word* in verse 6, is noted, that the people’ *prayer* request to **GOD** is, “change me?” Change “us?”

Answer. “*Revive*.” *Revive, anathallo’*, (an-ath-al’-lo) means, the *awakening* or *quicken*ing to one *true nature* and *purpose*. To be “*revived*” is evident of **GOD’S Life** at work *within* you.

New Life is not something we manufacture. New Life comes from **The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD!**

Instruction 3 – Vss. 8-13, Listen for **GOD’S Message** to You!

--v. 8, “I will hear...” It’s time to be silent before **GOD** and listen—obey...

--v. 8, “saints,” are those ‘set apart’ for **GOD**...

--v. 9, **GOD’S** people task is to “fear” **HIM**...

--Vss. 10-13, gives us *results*... **Mercy** and **TRUTH** met together. **RIGHTeousness** and **Peace** “*kissed*” each other. Point: The warfare is over!

Only *in* **CHRIST**, can **Mercy** and **TRUTH** become Friends! [If **TRUTH** be told, none of us deserve **Mercy**!]