

PSALM 85

It remains uncertain to which captivity the psalm refers in the first verse. Many would opt for the return from the Babylonian captivity, while others reject this view due to the use of the words "of Jacob." To them "of Jacob" refers to Israel, not Judah, and it is known that the tribes of Israel did not return, for they were scattered after being conquered by Assyria in 731 B.C. In any event, the Psalmist voices his gratitude for their restoration to the land and trusts in Yahweh to give fertility to it that it may yield its produce.

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

- 1 O YAHWEH, You showed favor to Your land; You restored the captivity of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. Selah
- 3 You withdrew all Your fury; You turned away from Your burning anger.

- 4 Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your indignation toward us to cease.
- 5 Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?
- 7 Show us Your lovingkindness, O YAHWEH, and grant us Your salvation.

- 8 I will hear what God YAHWEH will say;
for He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones;
but let them not turn back to folly.
- 9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Lovingkindness and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- 12 Indeed, YAHWEH will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.
- 13 Righteousness will go before Him and will make His footsteps into a way.

PRAYER

O most gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for our salvation through the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Endue us with a lively faith in your promises, and give us the grace of perseverance that we may be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord. A day is coming when we will be judged for those works. Give us such an abundance of your Holy Spirit that those works may be found pleasing and acceptable, and then we shall receive the reward you have graciously promised. Hear us now in the name of our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.