

Psalm 85, Bible Study Outline

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2021

1. Authorship: Unknown; “A Psalm of the sons of Korah” could refer to authorship, or they could be the ones who set it to music, in which case Asaph was likely the inspired author,
2. Theme and Occasion: Timeless theme of godly revival; Thompsons entitles it “Prayer that the LORD Will Restore Favor to the Land”
3. “To the chief musician”, for congregational singing
4. 85:1, recollection of divine favor and prior return from captivity, “of Jacob” and not Judah only, furthermore the language is generalized enough to dispute post-exilic timing; Applied: to the USA, God’s providential favor and turning our captivity by the Great Awakening, post-Civil War, and post-Great Depression
5. 85:2, sin forgiven, and covered, conditioned on repentance, nationally (Cf. 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:12-14), personal application of the atonement (Cf. Leviticus 4:20; Matthew 26:28)
6. 85:3, Cf. Romans 5:9
7. 85:4, restoration implies fall from a previously good position, and the wrath of divine discipline is stayed
8. 85:5, No, but our God is longsuffering. Cf. Psalm 86:15.
9. 85:6, our earnest prayer, revival is beseeched by the saints, but it is sent from above, Romans 9:16 applied as point of similarity, result of revival (Acts 3:19), discuss how so
10. 85:7, mercy sought (Cf. Psalm 119:77), salvation sought (Cf. Psalm 106:4-5)
11. 85:8, having prayed with an earnest expectation to hear and obey God’s answer, “He will speak peace” (John 14:27), finally a warning not to readily repeat the cycle (as in Judges, sin, bondage, prayer of repentance and for help, restoration, and peace)
12. 85:9, Cf. Romans 10:6-13
13. 85:10-11, “Mercy and truth; Righteousness and peace”, the fourfold fruit of revival, the perfect working of these four attributes of God, and how they work together, discuss
14. 85:12-13, the expectation of answered prayer, that God will do great things when we call upon Him for revival and awakening!