

BRING US BACK

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Monday, December 4, 2017

As I sit here at the computer contemplating the unseasonable-like fall we are having, watching the leaves turn to all their glorious fall colors, I recognize that the Advent and Christmas seasons are the farthest things from my mind. And as I study the Scripture that I chose months ago for today's Advent devotion, I am wondering why I chose this one and more importantly what it has to do with Advent.

Psalm 80 is Asaph's prayer to God on behalf of the northern kingdom of Israel in which he asked God to bring back His people to a right position, a position in which they face God. He prayed for their restoration, deliverance, and revival because they had turned from God. Three times in his prayer, Asaph prayed for God to be present with them again...v. 3, 7, and 19.

Even though this Psalm is not considered Messianic, it has the overtones of one. Thus, as we prepare ourselves during this Advent season to celebrate again the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we take away from this Psalm the following thoughts and pray upon them.

1. "O Shepherd of Israel" – Christ is the great and Good Shepherd, in whom we find guidance and care.
2. "...come and save us" – Just as Israel needed to be rescued from danger and from her waywardness, we, too, need rescued --- and this comes from the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
3. "...make your face shine upon us..." – God has shown His light by giving us the gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel; come and save us from danger, from our enemies, from our sinful ways; and make Your face shine upon us. Amen.

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