

Sunday Night Message

February 1, 2015

*Psalm 80 – Shine on the Vine*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 80

## **Introduction to the Psalms of Asaph**

Psalm 73 through 83 (as well as Psalm 50, are attributed to Asaph. Asaph was a musician who was also a worship leader in the sanctuary. (See 1 Chronicles 15:16–19; 16:4–7, 37–42; 2 Chronicles 5:12–14; 29:13; 35:15).

## **Introduction to Psalm 80**

1 Shoshannimeduth – means “lilies”. Remember, the Lord Jesus is the Lily of the Valley. This is the same Hebrew word that is found in the introduction of Psalm 60, though the English translation is slightly different. (Shushaneduth)

2 Notice – “O Shepherd of Israel” – We have seen already in Psalm 23 that the Lord is our Shepherd. According to John 10, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Also in Hebrews.

*"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"*  
(Hebrews 13:20)

3 Joseph, Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh – possibly the context of this psalm deals with the destruction of the northern kingdom by the Assyrians, or as in some of the other psalms that we have seen, it could be reflective of the Babylonian captivity. Either way, it is apparent that this Asaph was not the same person that was the worship leader in David’s day.

4 According to Numbers 2:17 – 24, the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin were the tribes that followed the ark of the covenant as the Israelites travelled eastward.

5 Notice the four references to the word “shine” in vs. 1, 3, 7, and 19. We have also seen this before in Psalm 31:16, and Psalm 67:1; and we will see it again in Psalm 119:35. It speaks of having God’s favor and blessing. When God’s face is shining on you, you are being blessed of God.

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them." (Numbers 6:22-27)*

6 Notice in v. 8 Israel is compared to a vine.

Turn Isaiah 5:1 – 7

Turn to Matthew 21:33 – 46 – The vineyard of Israel is still in ruins because they have not turned to the Lord.

This psalm tells the story of a once tremendously blessed nation that had turned her back on the Lord, and was now reaping the judgment that came as a result of her actions. It is important also to remember that the judgment depicted in this psalm came about after years of repeated warnings from the Lord and calls for repentance.

Note – America had better learn from this. We also as individuals would do well to learn from this.

*"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (James 4:8)*

**I The Ruins of the Present (vs. 1 – 7)**

**II The Remembrance of Past (vs. 8 – 11)**

**III The Return of the People (vs. 12 – 19)**

Throughout the psalm, the psalmist gives the cure. If God is going to visit the vine (v. 14), the people of God will have to repent and turn back to Him. God's face shines on the nation that is right with Him:

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*