

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms
6-22-11

PSALM 85

The Story Behind the Psalms

These Psalms were written for the sons of Korah, who were Levites. The Levites formed one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Each of the twelve tribes was given a portion of the land of Canaan, except for the tribe of Levi. The other eleven tribes were to bring tithes of their increase to a storehouse. From the storehouse the Levites gathered their necessities.

Now there were three families in the tribe of Levi. The family of Gershon, which became the Gershonites, whose job it was to carry the tent itself; that is, the tabernacle. Then there was the family of Kohath, which carried the furniture. Then the family of Merari carried the boards and the bars.

Kohath had a son whose name was Korah. (By the way, Moses and Aaron both came from the family of Kohath.) The family of Korah formed the singers and they were known as the sons of Korah. It was their job to praise the Lord, and from them David organized a great choir. These Psalms are choir specials sung by the sons of Korah and written for their use.

The Way They Were Used by God's People

These Psalms were especially dear to the Jews while in captivity in Babylon.

Theme: From reverence to restoration. Reverence leads to forgiveness, restoring our love and joy for God.

Author: The sons of Korah (Temple assistants)

For the choir director: A psalm of the descendants of Korah

PSALM 85:6, 7

The psalmist was asking God to revive his people, bringing them back to spiritual life. God is capable of reviving both churches and individuals. He can pour out his love on us, renewing our love for him. If you need revival in your church, family, or personal spiritual life, ask God to give you a fresh touch of his love.

Psalm 86

The Story Behind the Psalm

It is not definite when David wrote this Psalm, and there are no clues that lead us to find the answer. Verse 17 makes an interesting statement, "Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because Thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me." David is asking God to show his enemies that God loves him. What enemies he is talking about is not clear, but one thing is clear: David needs some reassurance of God's love and care, and he wants this reassurance to manifest itself in God making others aware of David's relationship with Him.

The Way It Was Used by God's People - Its use is unknown.

Theme: Devoted trust in times of deep trouble

Author: David

A prayer of David

PSALM 86:7

Sometimes our trouble or pain is so great that all we can do is cry out to God for protection (86:2). And often, when there is no relief in sight, all we can do is acknowledge the greatness of God and wait for better days ahead. The conviction that God answers prayer will sustain us in such difficult times.

PSALM 86:8-10

"Nowhere among the pagan gods is there a god like you." The God of the Bible is unique! He is alive and able to do mighty deeds for those who love him. All human-created deities are powerless because they are merely inventions of the mind, not living beings. The Lord alone is "worthy ... to receive glory and honor and power" (Revelation 4:11). Although people believe in many gods, you need never fear that God is only one among many or that you may be worshiping the wrong God. The Lord alone is God.

PSALM 86:17

It is right to pray for a sign of God's goodness. As David found, it may be just what we need. But let us not overlook the signs he has already given: the support of family and friends, the fellowship of other Christians, the light of each new day. And we can be confident that he knows our situation no matter how desperate it becomes, and he cares.