

Psalm 80-81: Restore! Listen.

The Psalmist prays that the Lord would restore and save Israel. He described the blessing and cursing of the nation as a vine that flourished and was then destroyed.

1-3 - The Lord is pictured sitting enthroned in the temple above the gold-covered cherubim over the Ark Of The Covenant. The psalmist then prayed that God would restore and save His people by His grace.

4-19 – The Lord disciplined them. He again pleads for restoration. Restore, return, revive and cause your face to shine upon us.

Psalm 51:12 - *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

Psalm 81: Listen.

This song is a festive celebration in memory of the Lord's deliverance. In the Psalm Asaph summoned the people to the festival which God had ordained as a memorial to His great deliverance of them from bondage in Egypt. Using the witness of history, the writer declared that the Lord would turn their affliction away if they would obey Him.

1-5 - The Psalmist called the congregation to sing aloud to the Lord their Strength and to praise Him with musical accompaniment.

3-6 - Then the Psalmist exhorted them to appear at the festival because it was a statute for the nation to keep. The Law stipulated that adult males were to make pilgrimages three times a year to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feasts of Passover (in association with the Feast of Unleavened Bread), Weeks, and Tabernacles).

These verses record God's communication to Israel as if He spoke directly to the nation.

6-16 - First, the Psalmist wrote that God said that by the Exodus He relieved the Israelites of their burden. He recalled God's revelation of Himself and His Law to His people. Because they did not submit to Him, He let them run to their own destruction. If they would obey Him He would subdue their enemies and give them prosperity.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

John 14:15 - *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.*