

# Revival Study Part 1

## Revival in the OT: Psalm 85

Handout from the class taught by Pastor Doug Livingston, September 12, 2012

Background: Psalm 85 was 1 of 12 Psalms written by the sons of Korah whose father led a rebellion of 250 men against Moses & Aaron (about 1490 B.C.) & was killed by God along with the others & their families who rebelled (Numbers 16), except for Korah's sons who did not participate in the rebellion (26:11).

Back in Genesis 11:31 (about 1921 B.C.), a man named Terah and his son Abram left their home in Ur of the Chaldeans (Iraq) to go to the land of Canaan (Israel). On the way, they settled in the city of Haran (northern Syria) where Terah died (32). In Haran, the Lord spoke to Abram telling him what he was to do (Genesis 12:1-7).

About 8 years later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision (15:1-7). He then told Abram that his descendants would be "strangers in a land that is not theirs (Egypt), where they would be enslaved for 400 years," but be delivered & brought back to their land (13-16).

Some 15 years later, at the age of 99, the Lord appeared to Abram, changed his name to Abraham & made an everlasting covenant with him & his descendants to be their God & to give them the land of Canaan (Israel) as an "everlasting possession" (17:1-8). Joshua & his men finally took possession of the land about 1450 B.C. (Joshua 11:16-23).

Psalm 85:1-3: We do not know what period of time in Israel's history this was referring to. All we know is that the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord & confessed that to Him. He then forgave their sins & removed His wrath from them. Notice: Canaan is referred to as "Your land." See Joel 3:1, 2.

Verses 4-6: Israel has once again fallen out of favor with God & recognized her sin. She then asks the Lord to restore (revive, KJV) her again to favor & remove His wrath from her that she might rejoice in Him again. The word for "revive" also means "repair."

Verse 7: The word "lovingkindness" is "mercy" in the KJV. William Vine defines mercy as "the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, & resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it."

William Macdonald (WM): "Revival is a granting of 'salvation' from the Lord – here not salvation of the soul but deliverance from all the consequences of unfaithfulness – dispersion, captivity, affliction, powerlessness, & unhappiness."

Verses 8-9: Here, the writer pauses to wait on the Lord's response. He is confident that the Lord will respond in peace, but warns the people not to "turn back to folly." Sadly, the Lord's glory left the temple in Jerusalem around 600 B.C. (Ezekiel 11) & will return to the temple in the Millennial Kingdom (Ezekiel 43:1-5).

Verses 10-13: Most commentators believe this refers to the future Millennial Kingdom when the people of Israel will dwell in their land in peace & security & enjoy the Lord's presence & blessings, a common theme among her prophets, as we read in Joel 2:1.