

God's Everlasting Covenant
presents
The Restoration of Israel - Psalm 80

I am constantly amazed at the nuggets of gold to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. This immutable student wishes she had begun to learn biblical Hebrew years ago. Alas, it is a daunting task, but the rewards are well worth it!

This morning, I felt moved to pray for this Land that has become my new home...Israel...the Land of the Bible, the Land of my fathers, the Land of the Jewish people...and now, it is my Land too. I opened my Bible and Psalm 80 caught my attention.

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock;
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might; come and save us.

Restore us, O God;
Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

O Lord God Almighty,
How long will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
You have made us a source of contention to our
neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

Restore us, O God Almighty;
Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it,
And it took root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
It sent out its boughs to the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
Boars from the forest ravage it
and the creatures of the field feed on it.

Return to us, O God Almighty!
Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine,
the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.
Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
Then we will not turn away from you;
Revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God Almighty;
Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

There is much in this Psalm we could focus on, but we'll only touch on a few elements that are hidden away from the eyes of the English reader because they are only visible in the written Hebrew.

My first impression upon reading this beautiful prayer is that the psalmist wrote three separate times: "Restore us (or Return to us) O God; make your face shine upon us that we may be saved." From years of study, I've learned when something is repeated, there is something being emphasized. Something is hidden beneath the surface. Time for a treasure hunt! What does it mean to "make your face shine upon us that we might be saved"? This question led to some amazing discoveries, and the reason for this short teaching.

Note there are three underlined terms in the Psalm above: "your might" in verse 2, "forest" in verse 13 and "root" in verse 15. Let's take a closer look.

The Hebrew word for might or strength is *gibbowr* גִּבּוֹר. Psalm 24:8 says, "Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty (*gibbowr*), the LORD mighty (*gibbowr*) in battle." One of His titles is "El Gibbowr," Mighty God! But there is much more going on here than just asking Adonai יהוה to arouse Himself and show His might and power. In the Hebrew, it isn't just *gibbowr* that is written. It is "your might" גִּבּוֹרְתֶךָ, as if to call upon His personal might and power...and there is something additional, which is very unique and special: אֶת-גִּבּוֹרְתֶךָ, this is the *aleph-tav gibbowr*. The *aleph-tav* combination is none other than our Messiah Yeshua! This is Yeshua's might and power! For more information on the *aleph-tav*, see our teaching entitled *Shadows of the Messiah-Joseph, part 2*.
<http://www.godseverlastingcovenant.com/enrichment>

The *aleph-tav* אָת is His personal signature. The ancient Hebrew word picture is really amazing. The *aleph* א is a picture of an ox and means strength or leader. The *tav* ת is a picture of the cross and means the sign or covenant. The two letters together speak of “the strong covenant”, or “the leader on the cross”!!! This is just the beginning of the treasures to be found in this amazing psalm!

Let’s move on to the second discovery. In verse 12 and 13, we read:

Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
Boars from the forest ravage it
and the creatures of the field feed on it.

This is referring to God’s judgment on Israel for turning away from the Torah. The psalmist is referring to Jerusalem’s broken down walls, which allow her enemies to come in and ravage God’s vine, which is the nation of Israel. The “boars from the forest” are symbolic of the nations of the world coming into Israel to rape and pillage. There is an anomaly in the word for “forest” עֵר in the Hebrew. The letters, from right to left, are *yud*, *ayin*, *reysh*. The letter *ayin* is suspended above the line. In the ancient Hebrew, the *ayin* was a picture of an eye. In fact, the word *ayin* means “eye.” The message of the suspended *ayin* is calling us to “see” with our hearts and understand. It is as if God is saying to us, “If you have eyes to see that Israel is my vine, then my Son Yeshua (the *aleph-tav*) will give you His power and might. Say “yes” to my vineyard, Israel, and you are saying “yes” to my Son as well.”

Are we not grafted into Israel by way of the Messiah, who is the Son of God? Israel is also His firstborn son. They are inseparably connected. As the vine, Israel, has been raped and pillaged by the nations, so Messiah suffered at the hands of the Gentiles...and even by the rejection of His own brothers, whom He forgave. To love the Son is to love Israel, His Bride. To love Israel, is to love the Son.

It is also interesting to note that this letter *ayin* is the exact middle, the center letter of the book of Psalms! The suspended *ayin* reminds me of Yeshua, who was raised up on a wooden cross, which would have come from a tree in a forest. He was suspended above the earth. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” (John 3:14). And Yeshua said of Himself, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32). This is how God chose to save Israel and the nations as well.

The third and final discovery in this study, appears in verse 14 and 15:

Watch over this vine,
the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

Some translations say, “The vineyard your right hand has planted.” The Hebrew word is *kanah* כָּנָה. Written from right to left, the letters are *kaf, nun, hey*. This word is written with an enlarged *kaf*, calling our attention to another hidden teaching of this equally amazing letter. In the ancient Hebrew, the *kaf* was a picture of a palm, an open hand. *Kaf* means “palm,” as in the palm of the hand and speaks about the work of the palms. The letter *kaf* follows the letter *yud* in the Hebrew alphabet. The *yud* was a picture of the forearm with a closed hand or fist and represents the potential work of the hands, while the *kaf* is the actual productive work of the hands. *Kaf* is also the word for “spoon”. Grant Luton writes in his book about the Hebrew alphabet the following:

This dual meaning is a logical one because a spoon is simply a mechanical substitute for the palm of the hand. Furthermore, the Torah states that a spoon (*kaf*) was used in the temple to offer the daily incense on the golden altar. In the same way, the work of our “palms” should ascend before God as incense so as to bring Him pleasure in our service. (*In His Own Words*, pg. 121)

What a beautiful picture this is. Equally beautiful is that *Kaf* is the word for “container,” which comes from the root word *kafah*, meaning to bend or bow down. When looking at the *kaf* כָּ, it suggests the concave shape of the body or the shape of a crown on a king’s head. It’s not difficult to imagine an empty container or vessel, humbled and bowed down before the LORD, being filled by His Spirit to perform good works with our hands!

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

The ancient word picture of *kanah*, כָּנָה also has something of value to teach us. As the letter *kaf* is the palm or open hand, the *nun* was a picture of a fish, darting through the water. The *nun* speaks of the quickening of life, vitality! The *hey* was a picture of an open window and meant to behold or reveal something. Therefore, when we put them all together, the letters are beckoning to us to “open our hand to life revealed!” When we open our hands to receive the Son, when we say “yes” to Israel, we bring the power and might of God through His Son Yeshua, into our lives. We will find true life. This is how God illuminates or shines His face upon us. This is how we are saved! This is how Israel is restored! These three nuggets which are hidden just below the surface are teaching us to “See and open your hand to life. Don’t be like the nations who reject Israel and thereby reject the God of Israel. By being part of Israel, by saying “yes” to the Son, my face will shine upon you, and I will save you!” What a promise this is directly from His heart! These are eternal truths which we can take to the bank! Halleluyah!