**Psalm 80:7-9 Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!**

**8You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.  
9You prepared *room* for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land.**

What a beautiful way to start the Christmas season. We need to be excited at this time of the year! Not just for the presents or the food or the decorations, but for Jesus our Savior who reigns forever and ever – for His coming and His promised return. That is what Advent is all about – our expectation, our confidence in the return of Jesus and the fact that He will take His rightful place as King of kings and Lord of lords.

This morning, we’re looking at Psalm 80. This is a beautiful Psalm of restoration. Before there can be hope in restoration, there must first be Faith in the One who restores! There can be no restoration without there first being a Restorer. Jesus is the Restorer. He restored the blind, the deaf, and the lame. He restored the sick and the lost. He will one day reign in the new heaven and the new earth. Advent starts today with that Faith in the One who restores.

Verse 7 says - *Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!* Turn us back to you O God! No nation will ever be saved, no people will ever be restored unless they seek restoration. The first step is the people calling out for that restoration, showing that repentance. It was true then and it’s true now. When we call out, God reveals His face to shine upon us and the result is that we are saved. John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.* That sounds like true restoration… all others fail. Only Jesus offers eternal life, eternal restoration, and an eternal home.

Verse 8 *You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations* **(Gentiles)***, and planted it.* This applies to the nation of Israel, being delivered from Egypt, coming into a land filled with Gentiles and God casting the nations out and giving Israel a permanent home after their wilderness wanderings. But listen to this – Matthew 2:19-20 *Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”* Joseph, having fled Herod, now comes out of Egypt with Jesus. In John 15:1 Jesus says this - *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.* We are His branches and we abide in Him. No one can live separated from the True Vine. Those of us who are Gentiles – we have been grafted into the True Vine… destined to die, we now live because of His mercy and grace. That is true restoration… when Jesus plucked us from the ground, destined to pay the wages of sin, which is death… became the curse so we might be seen as righteousness, and grafted us in to live forever. That is true restoration.

Verse 9 *You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land.* The Old Testament testifies of the coming of Jesus. God prepared room for the True Vine. In Deuteronomy 18:18, God tells Moses that Jesus will come -*I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.* Listen to John 12:49 *For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.* God caused Christ to take deep root that continues even unto today. Likewise, only God prepares the heart of the believer and causes the word to take root, even until the whole of the heart is prepared and full of the Truth of Jesus. Like God clearing the land before the people of Israel, so God will clear hearts and turn us back to Him. God will restore, but only after we acknowledge that it was us who turned away and rebelled.

This week, let us prepare our hearts for restoration in this Advent season. Let us, in humblest Faith, acknowledge the only One who gives us Hope of restoration. Let this be a season of restoration – let our focus become sharp, our hearts become full, our spirits to become generous, and our love overflow. May our works this holiday season match our words. May our intensity match our intentions. May we look with eager expectation for the second coming of Christ, while desperately reaching for the lost through prayer matched only by our vigorous actions. May Jesus hear our words when we pray “Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus!”