

Psalm 80: God's Purpose

Read Psalm 80:14-19; Leviticus 19:23-25

Psalm 80 reminds God that He has invested untold time and energy in His vineyard, His people. He transplanted the vine, cleared the land, and built the wall, the tower, and the winepress to protect and process its fruits. He went through years of waiting and nurturing the young vine.

Leviticus 19:23-25 tells us that fruit from fruit-bearing plants was not to be harvested or eaten through the first three years. Then in the fourth year, the entire harvest was to be presented to God as a praise offering. Only in the fifth year could the vineyard owner begin to enjoy the fruits of his labors. Imagine investing all that effort and expense in beginning a business venture, then having to wait five years before you could begin to bring in money.

What's more, God's vineyard had begun to grow. It had taken root and filled the land. It had covered even the highest mountains and tallest trees. Its branches had reached westward to the Mediterranean Sea and eastward to the Euphrates River (vv.9b-11).

So after all this intense labor and all this waiting, why had God abandoned His vineyard? Why had He given up on it, tearing down its protecting walls, exposing it to plunder, and burning it with fire (vv.12-13, 16)? That's the question Psalm 80 asks God. "You have lavished such great care on us! We were so precious to You! And under Your care, we grew and flourished. How can you completely abandon us now? How can You stop caring about us?"

At times, Psalm 80 becomes our prayer. "O Lord, why? Why are You ignoring me? Why have You turned Your back on me? You said You loved me! Why aren't You acting like it?"

But whatever the reason for our situation, if we continue to turn to God and trust Him, even in our desperation, we discover that He is not ignoring us. He has not turned His back on us. We *are* His precious vineyard. He will never abandon us. But He will allow us to go through great need that only He can meet. When He does, He is not demonstrating His anger but proving His love. He is not pushing us away, but drawing us to Himself.

Listen & Sing: [Lord, Draw Me On](#) (from [LNWhymns.com](#))