

Psalm 80:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;

Analysis

The psalm pleads: "Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine" (Hebrew Elohim Tseva-ot shuv-na habet mi-shamayim u-r'eh u-foqed gefen zot). "Return" (Hebrew shuv) begs God to turn back from judgment. "Look down from heaven" appeals to God's transcendent position. "Behold" requests attentive observation. "Visit" (Hebrew paqad) means to attend with action—inspection leading to intervention. The "vine" is Israel (Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7).

Historical Context

The vine metaphor for Israel appears throughout prophets (Isaiah 5, Jeremiah 2:21, Ezekiel 15, 17, 19, Hosea 10:1). Jesus claimed to be the "true vine" (John 15:1-8), with believers as branches. God planted Israel as choice vine, but it produced wild grapes. The plea for God to "visit" His vine requests restoration after judgment. Christ's coming was ultimate divine visitation (Luke 1:68, 78, 7:16).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be part of the "vine" that God planted and tends?
2. How does Jesus as the "true vine" fulfill and surpass Israel's role?
3. What does it mean practically to "abide in the vine" (John 15:4)?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים	אָלֹה יְה	אֶבְרָאֹת	שׁׁוּב	שׁׁוּב	לִתְּבָנָה	מִשְׁמָעִים
we beseech thee O God		of hosts	Return	H4994	look down	from heaven
H430		H6635	H7725		H5027	H8064
וְרָא הַ	וְרָא הַ	וְרָא הַ	וְרָא הַ			
and behold	and visit	this vine		H2063		
H7200	H6485	H1612				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:15 (Parallel theme): Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Isaiah 63:17 (Parallel theme): O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.

Psalms 90:13 (Parallel theme): Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

Malachi 3:7 (Parallel theme): Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?