

The Embrace of Reconciliation¹

1. Lord, you have loved this land, for all of it is yours. You have given it back to us, and we are blessed to dwell here.
2. You've been gracious to forgive our sins repeatedly, and our misuse of life you've canceled from your book.
3. The fury that we've felt from you has passed away; it has simply disappeared.
4. So, God, restore us fully now, to something better than we were before, and let your anger towards us truly fade.
5. Give us back our life again, your life in full, restore our truest joy and deepest peace.
6. For you do not stay in anger long, it vanishes to nothingness.
7. So let us know your mercy one more time, that we have been renewed in you.
8. And we shall listen closely to all you say, for to those who come to you in faith you speak your inner peace.
9. To everyone who turns their face towards you, you come so close and glory floods the landscape of the soul.
10. And in the secret places of the heart your mercy and your truth shall meet at last in full embrace, and right-relationship and peace kiss one another there.
11. So truth is finally born in full, it springs from earth full grown, and heaven reaches out restoring balance to all.
12. And from that marriage, prosperity unmeasured fills the lands, and yields a harvest of unimagined good,
13. And makes the path of justice smooth between all peoples everywhere, for everything in you knows perfect peace.

ⁱ NOTE:

1. A great storm has passed, Relationships have been restored, and the people are once again settled in the land they love. This experience may also be prophetic, reflecting not only a vivid experience in the past history of the Hebrew people, but it may also express a future state of renewal and hope for the whole world.

MEDITATION:

- A. The nation of Israel has passed through a national period of cleansing and return (metanoia is the expression used in the Christian Scriptures for this experience). It has had a deep effect upon the hearts of the people, and they see new horizons before them. Something of this experience may have been true for you. Having passed through a period of suffering, you may have come to a place of renewal and hope. What part of this Psalm expresses this experience most fully for you? Meditate upon those words as a means of entering into an interior attitude of hope.
- B. The sense of there being states of spiritual “springtime” is part of this Psalm’s power. You have passed through the transition from winter to spring. Suppose that same transition exist as seasons of the soul. What conditions prevail in these inner seasons that are expressed by this Psalm? What is the ultimate purpose of cleansing and restoration?