



## re//cognize

PSALM 80:1-3

RESTORE US, O GOD

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!



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The psalm begins with a recognition of Israel's true King. God is the true Shepherd who guides and cares for his covenant people. It is God alone who sits on the throne of the universe. It is his glory that is to be reflected in the holiness and obedience of the Jewish people. As Israel and later Judah fell away to follow other gods, God's name was defamed and his glory tarnished among the people of the surrounding lands.

We must recognize that this is true even today when we, as professing followers of Jesus, do not obey him whom we call Lord. We must recognize that God is central to all that we are and to why we exist. Our churches exist for his glory and the exaltation of his holy name. We accomplish this by our faithful proclamation of the biblical truth, especially the gospel message, and through our holy living. When we fail to do these things we, like ancient Israel, tarnish God's glory and defame his name among the people.

Perhaps the reason so many of our churches are struggling or dying is that we have failed to recognize God's supremacy in all things. We act as if everything is about us and our comfort and we

fail to see that we are merely privileged supporting actors in God's great story of redemption. When our churches begin to be about us and cease to be about God and his glory, we have a problem. Lest we be exiled like Israel,

**we must first recognize God as our King and Master and submit to him all that we are and all that we do.**

## prayer guide

**God, I praise you for your greatness, glory, majesty and kingship.**

**God, reign supreme and uncontested in your church.**

**Let your face shine upon your church, Lord, and your glory be made known through your congregation.**

**God, would you bring revival and restoration to our church? You alone can do this.**

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**Confess if you have placed someone (even yourself) or something else on the throne of your life or crowned something else as Lord of your church.**

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