

# Thought for the Day

Saturday December 21, 2024

## Today's Scripture:

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

~ Psalm 80: 1-3

## Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

When my lovely wife returns from her facial appointments, her face actually shines. She's already beautiful but when I see her like that I perceive her to be radiant. Her natural beauty truly shines forth, like it always does.

Many folks believe that a pregnant woman's face actually glows. Some truly believe they have seen the glow and known that such blessed souls were with child even before they did. Who am I to doubt that?

There is just something magnificent about a shining face, isn't there? Maybe it even stirs us to wonder about the face of our Lord and Savior. We are told that He shone brightly when He revealed His glory to Peter, James and John (Matthew 17:2). Have you ever wondered about His face at His birth? Did Jesus shine like no other child?

Today we read the words of the psalmist calling to God that He might let His face shine upon all of Israel, and us. This is not a whimsical fantasy but rather a beloved truth. To seek the gaze and shining face of Jesus looking upon us is a Holy and righteous thing; certainly worth our consideration, and wonder. Let us ask The Lord to look upon us with good favor and make His face to shine upon us, just as He commanded Moses (Numbers 6:25). To seek the shining face of Jesus at Christmas is one of the most blessed endeavors we could ever undertake.

Now when my beloved spouse returns from her facial appointments, I expect and look forward to her radiant face and the look she offers me. It is a look of love. Let us all look forward with such expectation to witnessing the radiant loving face of Jesus - in the manger, on the cross, at His glorious resurrection, as He ascended and as we come face to face with Him, as we all will

(Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:12; Proverbs 6:32; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Let us consider the radiance of The Lord's face with awe and wonder. He will shine brighter than any light we have ever seen. He already has - and does.

## Prayer:

***Lord Jesus Christ, Savior, Redeemer, Messiah, Lamb of God, look down upon us with good favor and let Your radiant face shine in all Your glory. Today we pause to wonder about the radiance of Your countenance - in the manger, in Your ministry, at Your Transfiguration and even now at this very moment. We wonder about what You really look like and how Your face shines. We call upon You today, to look down upon us, lowly and humble servants, and offer us Your blessing as we prepare to celebrate Your wonderful birth into the world. We meditate upon what it all means, our salvation and our eternity, based on what we imagine we will see in Your loving and radiant face. May our ponderings of the moment we meet You bring us hope, peace, joy and a complete sense of Your immeasurable love. We pray through Your Radiant glory, Amen.***