

Psalm 43

V: 1 David is pleading with God, “Judge” me or “vindicate” me... prove that I am right, clear me of guilt, justify me. Davids wants to be justified.

- David longs for something that God wants to give him, and will give him, justification.

Isaiah 53:11 “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.”

Paul, speaking of Jesus:

Romans 4:25 “Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.”

- This Psalm is likely an extension of the previous; and David is asking God to intervene - the nation spoken of here is the nation of Israel which has seemingly sided with Absalom, and David feels or thinks that the nation has become ungodly in turning against him, which in a sense would be true as they are opposing God’s anointed king.
- David is in that difficult and painful place of describing his own son, Absalom, as being deceitful and un-just, and asking God to deliver him from Absalom’s evil plan.

V: 2 The God of his “strength,” meaning his refuge, fortress, stronghold - the God of his safe place, his security - but he’s been “cast out” of that safe and secure place.

- Again, this is based on his retreat or evacuation of Jerusalem as he saw Absalom’s forces approaching Jerusalem from Hebron.

2 Samuel 15:30 “And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.”

V: 3 His request, his prayer: send out your light and your truth: let them lead me...

Psalm 119:105 “They Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

- God’s Word is light, and it is truth.

- May these things lead me unto, or given David's circumstances, may they lead him back to His Holy Hill, back to the place where His Tabernacle is.

2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

- Like David, as we walk in the light and yield to God's Truth; Jesus is God's Truth - He's the Way, the Truth, and the Life - as we submit to Jesus, that leads us to His Holy Hill, to where He is, we too find ourselves in the Tabernacle of God - Heaven itself.

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

V: 4 When he gets there it is his intent, his expressed desire is to go to the altar, to the place or worship and sacrifice, and praise.

"... unto God my exceeding joy..."

- God is his / David's exceeding joy, he's delighting himself in God!
- David is making progress through his difficulties:

Psalm 42:2 "... the living God" - My living God.

Psalm 42:8 "... the God of my life."

Psalm 43:4 "... God my exceeding joy..."

- David's focus has changed from his situation and problems, to His God.

"... Oh God my God!"

- Because of that V: 5 isn't read in the same mournful way as previously, it's read almost exuberantly and incredulously, like why was I ever so down and forlorn knowing what I know now!

V: 5 In light of that, why was I so down? Now I've got the answer to my problem: Hope in God, keep my / your eyes on Him.

- Generally speaking, the reason I'm depressed or "cast down" is because I've lost sight of God, He's been taken out of the equation.
- The answer to every situation is to put God back in the equation, to factor Him in to "hope thou in God" - then suddenly it's not so impossible, suddenly we see the solution, it's Him!

2 Corinthians 4:8 “⁸We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;”

- The moment we factor God back into the equation, we know we were going to come out victorious, we may not know what He’s going to do, or how He’s going to work, but we know that He is and that it’s going to be good, so we begin to rejoice in that victory.
- I will yet praise Him - no matter what is going on in our lives He is worthy of honor, glory, and praise! Our circumstances change frequently, but His worthiness never changes, He is always worthy of our adoration and exultation!

Psalm 44

- To the sons or descendants of Korah (“bald”), a descendant of Levi, who led a rebellion against Moses and the authority of God. It ended with his being swallowed up by the earth.
- Apparently his descendants figure it out, learned their lesson, because in David’s time they are the “worshippers” they led the nation in the worship of God.
- This is a “Maschil” or a song of instruction.
- This Psalm starts off in the first 8 verses, with a declaration of what they have all known since they were little children. The testimonies, the history of the nation handed down from parent to child over the many generations since the children were delivered from their bondage in Egypt, carried through the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, then being brought into the promised land as God drove the inhabitants out before them.

V: 1 We have heard, we’ve been made aware - instructed.

Proverbs 1:8 “My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”

Deuteronomy 6:7-8 “⁶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; ⁷And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

V: 2-3 We have heard that our fathers didn’t deliver themselves, and they didn’t gain possession of the land because of their strength or wisdom, God did that for them.

Deuteronomy 26:8-9 “⁸And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders. ⁹And He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.”

- The light of His countenance, His glory went before them and He gave them the victory because God had favour upon them.

V: 4-8 That declaration, that pledge of allegiance to God as King, sovereign and supreme.

- Because He is their King, and because we are still your people - do it again, save us with your mighty and out stretched arm.
- Through your power we will be victorious. I won't trust in my weapons or my skill or strength, but I will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 33:16-17 “¹⁶There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. ¹⁷An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.”

Psalm 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

- ⁷Citing Israel's history, that God has saved them, delivered them.
- ⁸Our boast is in God, not in ourselves but in His name.

V: 9-18 Lord here I am, I'm your servant but you've cast us off, you're putting us to shame - the writer goes on to use 15 different descriptions or words to describe how God has kind of left them in the lurch.

- There are times when we can have that misconception that since we're serving God that somehow He's obligated to reciprocate in some way and because we've served Him, now He should serve us - which in so doing indicates that we've lost the concept really of the sovereignty of God - God is never under any obligation to accomplish my will.
- God doesn't operate in a “quid-pro-quo” manner, “I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine.”
- He is sovereign, He is Lord, and master - we are the servant, the slave.
- We lose sight of the fact that the purpose of prayer is not to get my will done, but to get His will done.

V: 15 The psalmist is confused, he doesn't understand why this is happening, why God isn't acting on his behalf. Again this is an issue about the sovereignty of God.

V: 17-18 Historically whenever there was trouble in Israel, whenever they suffered a defeat the first explanation was usually "somebody has sinned."

- That is what happened when Israel was defeated at Ai (Joshua Ch. 7), when there was a 3 year famine in David's time (2 Samuel 21), and when David numbered the people (2 Samuel 24).
- But as far as the psalmist knew there weren't any issues like that, they had been faithful to the Lord.
- In spite of all of that, you are still our God, we still look to you.

Job 13:15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him."

- Our hearts haven't turned back, we've not declined - turned away from your ways.

V: 19-21 God has broken out against us, we're about to perish.

- We haven't forgotten His name or worshipped other God's - God knows, He knows the secret things.

Psalms 139:23-24 "23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

- All of this sounds like a line from the book of Job - which the Psalmist would have had access to.
- Again, we don't always know what God is doing at a given moment in time, but we do know:
- God is good. That God loves us. We know that His Word is true, and that His will is perfect!

V: 22 I'm not sure what would have prompted the writer to express this; but I can certainly easily relate it to what we're seeing happen today to the persecuted church in Sudan, North Korea, Iraq, Syria, Gaza, and Jordan at the hands of ISIS and other Muslims.

- But even in this God is being glorified and He is accomplishing His purposes.

- Hezekiah? Senecharib? 185K Assyrians?
- No matter how the life of one of God's children ends, it very much matters to God.

Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

V: 23-26 These is perhaps raw emotion on the part of the Psalmist, I don't feel like I could talk to God this way.

- It seems like many of the Psalms start out this way, with this kind of a desperate plea and end the way this Psalm begins, with a confident declaration affirming that God will come through.
- It may seem at times like God is asleep at the helm, not doing what we expect that He should be doing, but He's always watching:

Psalm 121:4 "Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

- It is thought provoking that Paul uses or quotes this Psalm to describe what the early church was going through and speaking of the position of the believers:

Romans 8:31-39 (Turn to / read)

- Paul is talking about being in that glorious place of being secure in Christ, secure in the love of God - and yet dealing with the persecution, the tribulation, the perils that Christians face.

Romans 8:36 "... as it is written (here in our Psalm) for thy sake we are killed all the day long, we are counted as sheep for the slaughter"

- It's going beyond that to just trusting Him.

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, and not by sight:"

- We can't always explain what God is or isn't doing, we just know that He'll use it for good, and that we're victorious in Him!

Romans 8:37 "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."