

Psalms 44

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Psalms 44

Wake up, O God

Historically, the conquest of Canaan was not won by the sword, nor was it won by one's own arm. but from God's help, by your right hand, by your arm, and by the light of your face." The Israelites prayed together, "Rise up and help us!" Redeem us by your lovingkindness!". When we pray and pray, we ask for God's mercy.

It is entirely by the grace of God, God, that thou hast led the people of Israel out of the afflicted land of Egypt, through the pillars of cloud and fire, over the Red Sea, and for the forty years of God in the wilderness, and for the living water that has not been left weak in more than two million people, and not in their shoes worn out, and in their feet not swollen, and in the defeat of thirty-one kings in the land of Canaan, and in the division of the land, and in the inheritance, and that they have prevailed not by their own sword and their arm, but by the salvation of the LORD Almighty.

"But now," the Israelites are being defeated and crushed. "You..... to dishonor us"; rout before the enemy, "Thou hast made us turn and retreat from the enemy"; Israel was powerless to meet the enemy, so it had to flee in the desert, and was "arbitrarily plundered" by the enemy. "You have made us scattered among the nations"; Taken captive by the enemy, he was like a "sheep about to be eaten." You have forsaken your people to punish and teach them. "Thou hast brought us to reproach against our neighbours, and to be ridiculed and ridiculed by those who are round about"; The nations around him gloated and fell into the grave, "Thou hast made us laugh among the nations"; The deepest anguish of the soul. The six encounters are long-lasting pains in the heart, both "humiliation" and "shame", and they are endured "all day long", because "the voice of insult and slander" has always echoed in the ears. This kind of wounding, which has accumulated in the depths of the soul, cannot be relieved without God's intervention.

"Awake, Lord, why do you sleep all the time? Arise and do not forsake us forever: "Why dost thou hide thy face, in spite of our afflictions, and oppressions? Our lives are in the dust; Our bellies are close to the ground." "Rise up and help us! Redeem us by your lovingkindness!" We haven't forgotten God, we haven't broken God's covenant, our hearts haven't backed away, our feet are on the right path, we haven't forgotten God's name, we believe God is loving, because He is a loving God, and He will redeem them.

True faith is not that we believe in God when He is good for us, but that we choose to believe in God even if we feel that God is bad for us. No matter what we face right now, we still have to trust that God is in control.

God has not promised that the sky will always be blue, but He has promised to be with us in our heavens. We wonder and struggle when we are looking forward to it in the darkness of the sky or in the storm, and we are unable to see Him in troubled days. In times of great stress and pain, the prayer in Psalm 44 guides us on how to face God's hidden presence and get out of the prison of being in trouble.

As we turn from the terrible situation in front of us to count God's past favors, we appreciate once again what a loving and faithful God he is, who will never abandon his people. The same God who stretched out his hand to sustain them in the past will surely reach out to us today, and we will be saved by trusting Him with all our hearts. Counting God's favor strengthens our faith in difficult situations. Secondly, before the psalmist cries to God, he first examines whether he has sinned against God, and after we examine ourselves, we should complain to God about our miserable situation without reservation, and we do not hide our fear and expose our weakness, which is a humble attitude that completely admits that we are helpless and needs God's help.

Let's pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we need you in our daily lives, and we don't know how to move forward without you. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to humbly submit to your leading, so that our lives may be filled with God's good plan. In times of trouble, trust in God, and God will take care of us. Although we have misunderstandings and contradictions about God, we should never forget one thing, and that is that God is loving, He loves us forever, and He will not ignore us. Hold fast to God's love, and we will be doomed

In the victorious name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Psalm 44

Former Times of Help and Present Troubles.

To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A skillful song, or a didactic or reflective poem.*

44 We have heard with our ears, O God,
Our fathers have told us
The work You did in their days,
In the days of old.

2

You drove out the [pagan] nations with Your own hand;

Then you planted *and* established them (Israel);
[It was by Your power that] You uprooted the [pagan] peoples,
Then You spread them abroad.

3

For our fathers did not possess the land [of Canaan] by their own sword,
Nor did their own arm save them,
But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence,
Because You favored *and* delighted in them.

4

You are my King, O God;
Command victories *and* deliverance for Jacob (Israel).

5

Through You we will gore our enemies [like a bull];
Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us.

6

For I will not trust in my bow,
Nor will my sword save me.

7

But You have saved us from our enemies,
And You have put them to shame *and* humiliated those who hate us.

8

In God we have boasted all the day long,
And we will praise *and* give thanks to Your name forever. *Selah*.

9

But now You have rejected us and brought us to dishonor,
And You do not go out with our armies [to lead us to victory].

10

You make us turn back from the enemy,
And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.

11

You have made us like sheep to be eaten [as mutton]
And have scattered us [in exile] among the nations.

12

You sell Your people cheaply,
And have not increased Your wealth by their sale.

13

You have made us the reproach *and* taunt of our neighbors,
A scoffing and a derision to those around us.

14

You make us a byword among the nations,
A ^[a]laughingstock among the people.

15

My dishonor is before me all day long,
And humiliation has covered my face,

16

Because of the voice of the taunter and reviler,
Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.

17

All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten You,
Nor have we been false to Your covenant [which You made with our fathers].

18

Our heart has not turned back,
Nor have our steps wandered from Your path,

19

Yet You have [distressingly] crushed us in the place of jackals
And covered us with [the deep darkness of] the shadow of death.

20

If we had forgotten the name of our God
Or stretched out our hands to a strange god,

21

Would not God discover this?
For He knows the secrets of the heart.

22

[b]But for Your sake we are killed all the day long;
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

23

Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord?
Awaken, do not reject us forever.

24

Why do You hide Your face
And forget our affliction and our oppression?

25

For our life has melted away into the dust;
Our body clings to the ground.

26

Rise up! Come be our help,
And ransom us for the sake of Your steadfast love.

Psalm 44 is a communal lament, where the psalmist, speaking on behalf of the people of Israel, cries out to God in the midst of their suffering and defeat. This psalm is unique in that it reflects the anguish of a people who have been faithful to God but are experiencing defeat, humiliation, and God's apparent silence in the face of their plight. Despite recalling God's past acts of deliverance, the psalmist wonders why God has seemingly abandoned them in their current distress.

Structure and Full Description of Psalm 44

Psalm 44 can be divided into the following sections:

- 1. Psalm 44:1-8 — Recalling God's Past Faithfulness**

- The psalm begins by recalling God's past acts of deliverance. The people remember how God had helped their ancestors and delivered them from enemies in times of trouble. This part emphasizes the fact that Israel's victories came not from their own strength or power but from God's intervention.
- **Key Verse:**
 - *“You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob.”* (Psalm 44:4, NIV)
- This section praises God's sovereignty and power in past victories, reminding God of His faithfulness in saving His people.

2. **Psalm 44:9-16 — The Present Situation of Defeat and Despair**

- Despite God's past acts of deliverance, the psalmist turns to the present situation where Israel is suffering defeat and disgrace. The people are being oppressed by enemies, and they feel abandoned by God. There is a sense of confusion and betrayal because they have remained faithful to God and have not turned to false gods, yet they are still facing defeat.
- **Key Verse:**
 - *“But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies.”* (Psalm 44:9, NIV)
- Here, the psalmist expresses the confusion of the people, wondering why God seems to have hidden His face from them.

3. **Psalm 44:17-22 — An Appeal for Help, Emphasizing Righteousness**

- The psalmist asserts that the suffering is not a result of sin or disobedience; in fact, they have remained loyal to God. They have not forsaken His covenant or turned to idolatry. This part focuses on the idea that they are suffering despite their righteousness, and the psalmist pleads for God to act on behalf of the faithful.
- **Key Verse:**
 - *“All this happened to us, though we had not forgotten you or been false to your covenant.”* (Psalm 44:17, NIV)
- The psalmist is calling on God to remain faithful to His promises and deliver the people from their current distress.

4. **Psalm 44:23-26 — A Cry for God to Awake and Save**

- In the final section, the psalmist passionately calls for God to "awake" and save them. They feel as though God is asleep or indifferent to their plight. The psalmist implores God not to hide His face but to act on behalf of His people. There is a strong plea for God's mercy and intervention.
- **Key Verse:**

- *“Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.”* (Psalm 44:26, NIV)
 - The psalm ends with a fervent appeal for God's intervention, relying on God's steadfast love and mercy to bring deliverance.
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Important Verses from Psalm 44:

- **Psalm 44:3**
“It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.”
This verse highlights that victory comes from God alone, not from human strength or effort. It emphasizes God's love as the source of deliverance.
 - **Psalm 44:9-10**
“But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies. You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us.”
These verses express the pain of feeling forsaken by God. The people were used to God's protection, but now they are experiencing defeat, which leads to confusion and disillusionment.
 - **Psalm 44:17-18**
“All this happened to us, though we had not forgotten you or been false to your covenant. Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.”
The psalmist emphasizes that the suffering was not due to sin or disobedience, but they are still suffering despite their faithfulness.
 - **Psalm 44:26**
“Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.”
This is the final cry for help, grounded in God's unfailing love. The people appeal to God's covenant love as the basis for their request for deliverance.
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Spiritual Influence of Psalm 44

1. **A Reminder of God's Sovereignty and Past Faithfulness:**
 - Psalm 44 reminds believers that God is sovereign and has shown faithfulness throughout history. By recalling God's past actions, we are encouraged to trust in His power and ability to deliver us, even when facing difficulties. It teaches us that our victory is not by our own strength, but through God's intervention.
2. **The Challenge of Unanswered Prayer and God's Silence:**
 - One of the most striking elements of this psalm is the apparent silence of God in the face of suffering. The psalmist expresses confusion over God's inactivity. This can resonate with believers who may feel abandoned or ignored in times of hardship. The psalm teaches that it is okay to express our feelings of abandonment to God, while also trusting that He will ultimately answer in His timing.
3. **Suffering Despite Righteousness:**

- Psalm 44 addresses the issue of innocent suffering. The psalmist insists that Israel's suffering is not due to sin, but still, they endure hardship. This reflects a spiritual truth: sometimes, suffering comes to the righteous not because of wrongdoing, but as part of God's larger plan or to strengthen faith. It teaches that even in suffering, we are called to remain faithful to God, trusting that He has a purpose.

4. The Importance of Lament and Honest Prayer:

- This psalm shows us that lament is an important part of the spiritual journey. It is not wrong to question God or express our pain and confusion, as long as we do so in the context of faith. The psalmist does not hold back in expressing the people's pain but continues to call out to God, showing that God is not afraid of our questions or emotions.

5. A Call to Dependence on God's Mercy and Love:

- The psalm closes with a plea for God's mercy, grounded in His steadfast love. It teaches that in times of trial, we should turn to God's unfailing love rather than relying on our own strength or understanding. Our prayers should be rooted in the trust that God loves us and will act on our behalf in His perfect timing.

6. Hope for Deliverance:

- Despite the pain expressed throughout the psalm, the final verses remind us that God is still the source of salvation. The cry for God to "rise up" is a hopeful plea, indicating that the people still believe God can act and deliver them. This encourages believers to keep hope alive, even in difficult circumstances, knowing that God will deliver according to His will and in His time.

Conclusion:

Psalm 44 is a powerful expression of communal lament, acknowledging God's sovereignty and past faithfulness while wrestling with the pain of current suffering and perceived abandonment. It offers a model for how to engage with God in times of hardship—through honest prayer, recalling God's faithfulness, and trusting in His mercy and love. It reminds believers that God is sovereign, even when His presence seems hidden, and calls us to rely on His unfailing love for deliverance.