

Rhema Christian Center

April 2022 Bible Study: Willie Bryant presenter

Psalm 44 New King James Version, Author: unknown

To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation^[a] of the sons of Korah

Contemplation: concentration on spiritual things as a form of private devotion: a state of mystical awareness of God's being: An act of considering with attention_study. (MW Dictionary)

The NIV calls Psalm 44 a Maskil. A maskil "a Hebrew verb IKE (sakai) , which mean to understand."

Another translation calls Psalm 44 a lament: to express sorrow, to mourn aloud, to cry out in grief,

Complaint

Brief background to consider

It was God's covenant with Israel. God told Abraham that the land of Canaan would belong to his descendants (to inherit/occupy). But, after leaving Egypt they had to take possession of the promised land (Canaan)

It was a legal sense of becoming an heir (Jeremiah 32:8) and a military sense of invasion for the purpose of settling in the territory. (Most of this account appears in Deuteronomy)

Israel as God's chosen nation and recipient of His covenant, the Lord fought for Israel, displaying His wonder -working power on her behalf. He was their King that enabled them to conquer the land.

So, it was, all the enemies were defeated and the ancestors of faith entered the promised land. Canaan was a type of heaven)

The Jewish people was accustomed to singing praising. when they had the victory.

Now, this Psalm is a prayer for divine help after a national defeat. It is a community lament (sorrow) in view of an unknown national disaster involving the loss of the land.

Psalms 44 1-3

The Jewish fathers were instructed to make known /teach their children the mighty deeds of God who delivered them in the past, (1 Chron 16:24)

1 We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:

² You drove out the ^[b]nations with Your hand ,But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out.

³ For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.

In verse 1 the grieving Israelites began their prayer by recalling to God his help in past deliverances and all the victories he had won in the past generations.

In verse 2 their recount:

- Drove out (3423) to take possession the nation of Canaan ‘

National (gown 1471) , non- Israelite or heathen people. uncircumcised nation; often referred to as the pagan nation which surrounded Israel (Gen 10:5). were wicked (Deut 9:45) abominable Deut 18:9; 11Chron 33:3,) and idolatrous 2kings17:29, and strangers to true religion.

- You afflicted the people (and cast them out. (These people 3816 a community or nation)

In verse 3 what God did:

“Israel’s forefathers did not possess the promised land on their own strength”

It was you God fought for their delivery, delivering them from Egypt and establishing them in Canaan.

They were triumphant because of your ..

- **Right hand**—a symbol of authority and unlimited power (Ex.15: 6; Isiah 41:10, 13)
- **Arm-** a symbol a might and strength in battle (Ex 6:6; Deur 4:34; Isa 63:12; Jerm 32:17)
- **Countenance**—a symbol of favor and presence (Ex 33:14-17; Psalm 4:6; 11:7; 42:

⁴ You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me.

⁷ But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us.

⁸ In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever. *Selah*

The Jewish people acknowledged it was God-Elohim (means the strong all powerful one) that enabled their ancestors to be victories over their enemies.

They believed that because they had been faithful, he can do it again.

This Psalm expresses what it’s like when we experience evil or injustice undeservedly or those times when physical circumstances are contrary to our physical walk.

*Consider “the unbelieving nations that rose up against Israel are a **picture** of the spiritual enemies that we face today as New Testament believers.”*

When spiritual enemies ...powers try to destroy our effectiveness for Christ; remember God has equipped us with two spiritual weapons:

- *His **mighty word** and **prayer** Eph 6:17-18*
 - *We are to boast only in God and not in ourselves, never forgetting that our strength is in Him.*
- Satan and his demonic force's goal is to turn our weakness into strongholds that bind and oppress us. They seek to influence our thinking and arrange circumstances to draw us into temptation.*

For example:

- *Bitterness*
- *Fear (anxious)*
- *Discouragement*
- *Negative thinking*
- *Worry (fretting)*

"Worry comes the Greek word that means to divide the mind, anxiety splits us right down the middle creating a double minded thought."

Satan knows your weakness, and he, and his forces seek ways to make you a slave to it.

Vss 9-16 They are telling God how they feel: rejected, humiliated, shamed and abandoned by him, when they needed Him the most.

⁹ **You** have cast *us* off and put us to shame, And You do not go out with our armies.

¹⁰ **You** make us turn back from the enemy, And those who hate us have taken ^{le}spoils for themselves.

¹¹ **You** have given us up like sheep *intended* for food, And have scattered us among the nations.

¹² **You** sell Your people for *next to* nothing, And are not enriched by selling them.

¹³ **You** make us a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and a derision to those all around us.

¹⁴ **You** make us a byword among the nations, A shaking of the head among the peoples.

¹⁵ **My dishonor** is continually before me, And the shame of my face has covered me,

¹⁶ **Because of the voice of him** who reproaches and reviles, Because of the enemy and the avenger.

The Hebrew word "cast off" implies casting away, objectionable, scandalous, degraded; and put to shame by defeat. **You** "did not go out with the armies -the land was conquered by the invaders.

The people of Israel contributed this disgraceful defeat to God, He was responsible for their **adversaries stealing their possession.**

You have given us up like sheep intended for food – "that as sheep are killed for food so thou hast allowed us to be put to death."

Scattered us among the nations (heathers)—that is, they have disgraced, embarrassed, confused in war; and many had fled into surrounding countries; many had been carried away captive.

“**You** make us a reproach to neighbors” reproach mean cause of shame, disgrace, dishonor’

Scorned is open disliked and disrespected or mockery,

Derision a state of being laughter at or ridiculed.

You make us a **byword** among the nation (heathers) -means unbelievers, godless people make up jokes and amusing saying about them. “The godless people shook their heads making attempt at what happened to their nation that had faithfully worshipped the Lord.”

My **dishonor** mean reputation; “the shame of my face has covered me”

Vs 16 because the voice of him means “antichrist” and revilers verbal abuse, insulting”

In vs. 17-22 they examined themselves.

¹⁷ **All this has come upon us; But we have not forgotten You, nor have we dealt falsely with Your covenant.**

¹⁸ **Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from Your way;**

In vs 17-18 They boldly declared that had not forgotten God, nor had they violated the Holy Covenant that was made with their forefathers. (READ msg EX 19:5-6,) “Their feet were strictly God’s way or path of righteousness. “They could not be traced to their own infidelity or unfaithfulness to God. “When it seemed God had abandoned them, the Israelites remained faithful to God, crushed, broken and overshadowed by death, they maintained their devotion to God and his commandments.

¹⁹ **But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death.**

That is to say, “they had been reduced to old ruins, in desolate places; wastes, desert; depopulated towns

²⁰ **If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched[□] out our hands to a foreign god,**

²¹ **Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.**

Heb 4:12-13 NKJV says for the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

If they were lying God would know because He knows the secret of the heart. We cannot hide anything from Him.

²² Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter

The image of sheep for the slaughter is also used of the Lord Jesus Christ, the lamb of God who was led to calvary to die for our sins. (Isa 53:7)

Romans 8:35-37 NLT says:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

²³ Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

²⁴ Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression?

²⁵ For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground.

²⁶ Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

Here we see from their perspective God was asleep. They wanted to be rescued from their shame before their unbelieving Nation. They had been faithful to the Lord, so they expected Him to be faithful to His covenant, His mercy to deliver them. Mercies (chased) speaks of God's steadfast covenant love toward His people.

Psalm 44 ends, the people of Israel still don't have answers to their questions – WHY! God seemingly rejected by allowing them to suffer a great defeat. "Yet they remained faithful because God knows the end"

In reflecting back Psalm 44 and all the trials hurt shame, mockery, afflictions the Israelites went through; prompts a question, what about Christians today? What the New Testament say about these situations.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition says:

3 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress *and* trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

² For people will be lovers of self *and* [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money *and* aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud *and* arrogant *and* contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy *and* profane.

³ [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate *and* loose in morals *and* conduct, uncontrolled *and* fierce, haters of good.

⁴ [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures *and* vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

But the GOOD NEWS IS:

- Rom 8:31 says **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**
- **Rom 8:37 -39 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**
- **38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Heb 4:16 n kjv says: let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

So, as we go boldly to the throne of grace and pray, then we should pray **bold faith** prayers.

- When we lament, we should exhibit a desire for God
- Maintain a disposition of humility. Humility acknowledges our desperate need for God to deliver us.
- Remind God of His commitment-unfailing love to us (Rom 8:35-39)
- Reflect on what he has done for you in the past.
- Don't give up keep trusting in God.
- Remember Job "though He may slay me, yet will I trust Him. (Job 13:15 nkjv

Casey B. Hough Lead pastor Houston, TX.

We should declare our determination to **hope**. Hope is believing things will happen. To desire with expectation of obtaining or fulfilment.

Lastly, He promised to never leave us or forsake us. Heb 13:5b nkjv)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corint 12:9

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter

1 Peter 4; 16

So, remember:

1. No matter what's going on around us, the good, bad or ugly, **STAND! (Maintain position unbudging)}**
2. When you've done all you can do **STAND**
3. When your heart is filled with pain and head ache **STAND**

4. When you feel like you can't make it through... **STAND**
5. After you've gone through the rain, pain and storm **STAND**

Through it all praise the lord.

Sources used:

New King James Bible.

The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible

Bible Commentary Bible Study

Be Worshipful by Warren W. Wiersbe

Casey B. Hough Lead pastor Houston, TX.

Merriam Dictionary

Internet