

Notes for 12/17

“Sustaining Our Faith through God-Centered Complaining” (Psalm 44)

Introduction:

Outline

44:1–3 God gave victory in the past to our ancestors.

44:4–8 It is only through God that we can have victory now.

44:9–16 But God has rejected us.

44:17–22 It makes no sense because we are innocent.

44:23–26 Wake up, God, and help us!

God gave victory in the past to our ancestors.

[44:1–3]

It is only through God that we can have victory now.

[44:4–8]

But God has rejected us.

[44:9–16]

**It makes no sense because we are innocent.
[44:17–22]**

**Wake up, God, and help us!
[44:23–26]**

Conclusion:

Conclusions I draw from the lament/complaining psalms:

1. The frequency of lament psalms tells us that innocent/righteous suffering should be expected.

2. Lament psalms model deep faith.

3. Lament psalms teach us to be honest in our prayers and bring everything to God.

4. Lament psalms teach us that we need God more than relief.

5. Lament psalms teach us to not isolate ourselves when we grieve.

6. Lament psalms push us to look for future resolution because of God's R and love.

The Biblical Poet's Toolbox

-Parallelism: Two lines, usually about the same length, where the first line says something and the second line says something that is related. (Sometimes three lines are parallel.)

Example of **Affirming parallelism** (the second line say something similar):

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord
And on his law he meditates day and night.” (Ps 1:2)

Example of **Opposing parallelism** (the second line says something opposite):

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness will surround him.” (Ps 32:10)

-Merism: Contrasting words are used to express completeness or totality.

Example: “In his hand are the depths of the earth,
And the mountain peaks belong to him. [*everything on the vertical axis*]
The sea is his, for he made it,
And his hands formed the dry land.” [*everything on the horizontal axis*]
(Ps 95:4–5)

