



**Conquering Lambs
Faith While in Confusion Trusting in the Hard Times
Psalm 44**

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Psalm 44:title–26

“For the music director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. God, we have heard with our ears, Our fathers have told us The work that You did in their days, In the days of old. You with Your own hand drove out the nations; Then You planted them; You afflicted the peoples, Then You let them go free. For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, For You favored them. **You are my King, God; Command victories**



for Jacob. Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, Nor will my sword save me. But You have saved us from our adversaries, And You have put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted all day long, And we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah Yet You have rejected us and brought us to dishonor, And do not go out with our armies. You cause us to turn back from the enemy; And those who hate us have taken spoils for themselves. You turn us over to be eaten like sheep, And have scattered us among the nations. You sell Your people cheaply, And have not profited by their sale. **You make us an object of reproach to our neighbors, Of scoffing and ridicule to those around us. You make us a proverb among the nations, A laughingstock among the peoples. All day long my dishonor is before me And I am covered with my humiliation, Because of the voice of one who taunts and reviles, Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger. All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, And our steps have not deviated from Your way, Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals And covered us with deep darkness.** If we had forgotten the name of our God Or extended our hands to a strange god, Would God not find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. **But for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. Wake Yourself up, why do You sleep, Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. Why do You hide Your face And forget our affliction and oppression? For our souls have sunk down into the dust; Our bodies cling to the earth. Rise up, be our help, And redeem us because of Your mercy.**" (NASB 2020)

Wow, you think the psalm is going one direction and then suddenly, bang.

Yes, this is prophetic for the nation, it also is a psalm that speaks to us today as well as it did to the nation when it was written.

What do we do when life just doesn't seem to make sense? We are used to reading and learning about those who have strayed from the Lord being judged, but we struggle when it is all about us growing spiritually. And then there is what takes place at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Israel has someone who has promised to protect them, the Temple is once again in operation and all looks good, until that guy who was going to protect them shows up and demands worship or else.

Job had a great life and the Lord blessed him. But he suffered precisely because he was the best man on earth at the time.

Job 1:8–12

"And the LORD said to Satan, **"Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"** Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." **And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand."** So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD." (ESV)

Then there was Joseph. He was sold into slavery and imprisoned because he honored God and operated as the Lord directed him.

Paul had a thorn in the flesh because of his service (2 Corinthians 12:7).

"We understand when God disciplines us with hardship when we have disobeyed. But why do trouble and tragedy come into our lives when we have been following him faithfully?" In other words, why do bad



things happen to good people? Why do the righteous suffer? (Johnson 2025, 23) Solomon asked that question.

“Jesus is not a plan for growth but that he is calling us to walk with him and learn faith by his side. Hear this: You have to choose. You have to choose to follow Jesus and learn that life is only found in him and with him. The desert does not appear life-giving, and on its own it isn’t. But you are not called merely to wander in the desert. You are called to trust him. Let him take you by the hand and show you the truth so that you can learn dependence upon him. This is where true life is found.” And that is what this psalm is all about. (Strobel and Coe 2026, 33-34)

Ecclesiastes 7:15–18

“I have seen everything in this meaningless life, including the death of good young people and the long life of wicked people. So don’t be too good or too wise! Why destroy yourself? On the other hand, don’t be too wicked either. Don’t be a fool! Why die before your time? Pay attention to these instructions, for anyone who fears God will avoid both extremes.” (NLT)

Yes, this is an often-misused section of scripture used by people to excuse their own behavior. Some use it to say that Solomon is saying don’t be too evil or too good and holy. That is not what he is saying, but he is struggling with the same question we see in Psalm 44.

We miss the reflexive Hebrew verb in verse 16 here. It means “one should not be wise ‘in your own eyes.’ This idea reflects the teaching of Proverbs 3:7, that says, ‘Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil...’ How does one destroy himself this way? (v. 16) Easy. It leads to self-centeredness and self-righteousness. It promotes pride, individualism, and self-absorption. It leads to idolatry in which one worships self to one’s own destruction. (Currid 2016, 98)

Before we get too far into Psalm 44, we need to keep our eyes on a couple of simple facts. First of all, we are fallen and live in a fallen world. Secondly, because of that, there are those in this fallen world who react according to their own flesh to events resulting in bad things taking place; and there is also the issue of Satan still being essentially in control of this world. Insurance companies may call a hurricane an act of God, but why would we blame Him for the results of sin and the fall on a planet currently owned by Jesus Christ and paid for on the cross, but the usurper is still exercising control until Christ takes over at the end of the Tribulation.

Before Jesus, we followed him.

Ephesians 2:2

“in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—**” (ESV)

This title emphasizes two things. First, it emphasizes Satan in his third and present abode, the atmospheric heavens. Secondly, it emphasizes him as being in authority over the other angels that fell with him. He is the prince of the powers, the other powers or the fallen angels. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 15)

The “power of the air” speaks of the totality of evil powers over whom Satan rules as prince. Some interpreters understand the “air” to refer to the atmosphere about us, the idea being that it is the realm of Satan’s authority. (Vaughn 2002, 45)

The realization of the sons of Korah is the same as ours and the same for believers since Genesis 3. Living in a fallen world means that yes, bad things can do indeed happen to good people. But again, without Christ, are we good?



Daniel was born during a time of revival in the Kingdom. Josiah was the King and all was good but then Josiah died and things went downhill in a hurry. Nebuchadnezzar, from Babylon no less, took over the region and as expected, took hostages the first time around to ensure good behavior on the part of those left behind. That really did not work out as well as he wanted. But Daniel and his three friends were part of that group taken. Young Jewish men who loved Torah and loved YAHWEH are suddenly taken, stripped of their manhood and made into eunuchs and then carried off into a new life in Babylon with new names that reference a foreign god, not their God.

Even through all of this, God was indeed glorified and we have the book of Daniel to explain it to us. But you still sit and wonder, why?

Earlier in the life of the nation, Gideon had the same complaint.

Judges 6:12–13

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” And Gideon said to him, **“Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”**” (ESV)

And yes, I have heard the same from folks today who want to know the answers rather than continue on in faith. I do not know why? And most of us will not truly know this side of heaven.

This psalm though is unique because the congregation “declares its absolute innocence before the Lord and claims that its suffering and shame are undeserved.” (deClaissé-Walford and Tanner 2014, 408)

When we enter a trial, we do the same thing. Have I done something to betray you God? Have I done something to stop the blessing I have been seeing in the past? Is there some unconfessed sin in my life you want me to root out? I know most of the questions since I have probably said them all to myself in the past several years as we look for a place to meet.

God has indeed been with us in the past, but what He is doing right now seems a bit bewildering, yet we continue to trust Him.

The sons of Korah begin with the past actions of God who has shown up and worked on their behalf, as they deal with the present.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we learn from this for those times we go through a trial. It is important for us to look back and recall those times where God has moved in each of our lives because those times where we realize how much we need Jesus because He is all we have at the moment, do indeed come around.

James 1:2–4

“My brothers and sisters, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (GNB)

Psalm 44:1–2

“God, we have heard with our ears, Our fathers have told us The work that You did in their days, In the days of old. You with Your own hand drove out the nations; Then You planted them; You afflicted the peoples, Then You let them go free.” (NASB 2020)



They go all the way back to the exodus from Egypt because in the present, that rescue appears to be at hazard. The reminder needed in the present is how God entered into history in the past to protect and save His people because that is where they are going to end in the present.

Moses and Joshua were used of God as He kicked the usurpers in the land.

That is also the picture we see in the book of Revelation as Jesus kicks out the usurpers, Satan and his followers, from the planet as He comes to take over the world for His people.

Psalm 44:3

“For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, For You favored them.” (NASB 2020)

God did this for His people. They were used by Him but had nothing to do with it in themselves as it was all the Lord. His right arm has also been displayed on our behalf too, that took place at the cross as Jesus Christ bared the right arm of God providing salvation for us.

The people knew the great deeds God had done in the past; they had learned of them as children from their fathers (v 2). Indeed, the very existence of their state was a direct consequence of God’s actions in the past, conquering foreign enemies and establishing their ancestors in the land (v 3). (Craigie 2004, 333)

The people were following the guidance of Moses as they look to what God has done for them. Salvation for the nation has been through the grace of God alone and nothing else.

Deuteronomy 7:7–8

“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (ESV)

We see the same in the life of the believer. There is nothing that we did or could have done to save ourselves.

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” (ESV)

There is no reason why the God of the universe has decided to lavish His love upon us other than His unmerited grace. Yes, there are times where we are brought low because we are getting a bit too big for our britches. But here is the thing, He loves us.

Romans 5:6–9

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (ESV)

The people of Israel trusted in God to give them the victory. We also trust Him to give us the victory, every single day that we are here on this planet. “The humblest Christian can confidently rely on God’s almighty power and in this way become strong for spiritual warfare.” (Phillips 2019, 15)



Psalm 44:4–8

“You are my King, God; Command victories for Jacob. Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, Nor will my sword save me. But You have saved us from our adversaries, And You have put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted all day long, And we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah” (NASB 2020)

The sons of Korah continue in remembering and triumphing in how God has moved on their behalf in the past. How He commanded victories for the entire nation time and time again.

As we look at this in the eyes of the prophecy, when the cry is made “you are my King God,” they are talking about YAHWEH of course, but the one who will indeed be King over the entire planet as well as Israel is the Messiah, King Jesus.

As the remnant hide from the Beast, they are remembering what it is God has done for them in the past and they are indeed calling on the King to do so again for them.

We also can look to King Jesus as well. He does indeed command victories on our behalf with the first one being the day we came to know Him as our Savior and Lord.

Here we also see the people praying that God would not only move on their behalf but that He will push back those who standing against them and in His name, trample them down. This will also be a cry heard during the Tribulation, the fifth seal judgment points to this.

Revelation 6:9–10

“Now when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been violently killed because of the word of God and because of the testimony they had given. They cried out with a loud voice, **“How long, Sovereign Master, holy and true, before you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?”**” (NET 2nd ed.)

This is very different from what we are taught in the scriptures for the church age. We are not to avenge ourselves.

Luke 6:27–28

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (NET 2nd ed.)

That is probably one of the hardest things for us to do as followers of Jesus Christ. To trust Him to take care of those who misuse us and leave it to Him.

Romans 12:19

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, **“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”**” (ESV)

Under the law though, and as we have seen David pray several times, it is a prayer for vengeance and that the Lord would move quickly to defend His people.

They forgot about the problems of the period of the Judges and how God used discipline to bring the nation back to Himself. Like all of us, when things go well, we begin to think this is the new normal and that the times of leanness and trouble are now all behind. This is why we see the sons of Korah remembering.



Through these circumstances, they had become convinced that this is how it works with the Lord: as long as you trust the Lord, the Lord blesses you and always gives you the victory. That belief is what made this new season so confusing. (Smith and Akin 2022, 311)

Whatever the events are that has resulted in this psalm to be written, we do know there is yet future application for Israel during the Great Tribulation and for us as we serve Christ and deal with the world.

This is the entire community of Israel though talking.

Psalm 44:7–8

“But You have saved us from our adversaries, And You have put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted all day long, And we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah” (NASB 2020)

I wish the psalm ended right there. A magnificent psalm of triumph, worship and praise for what God has done. But this is here because of what follows. When the sons of Korah paused here for us to reflect on the goodness of the Lord, we really need to do so because what is coming is a serious challenge for us. This would later also be reflected by Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 1:2–4

“How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! “Violence is everywhere!” I cry, but you do not come to save. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.” (NLT)

In our culture today, we find ourselves a lot like Habakkuk. Seriously disturbed about what is going on in the culture and all of the sin and degradation we see. We want to spend time on what God has done because right now is disgusting. But as Habakkuk prayed about it, he was told, “you ain’t seen nothing yet.” He wanted peace, he instead was given a national disaster.

Habakkuk 1:6

“I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands.” (NLT)

“This news from God is shocking, and God is allowing Habakkuk to feel its full impact. God is saying, “If you think Judah has problems now, look out because it’s going to get worse. Today’s difficulty is going to become tomorrow’s disaster.” God is saying He is neither deaf nor blind. What He’s doing is invisible to the human eye, but eventually, it will become known—and it won’t be pretty. Tough times are going to become tragic times. The prophet didn’t receive the answer he had hoped for. (Lutzer and Macdonald 2026, 68)

As we study this, many of us are busy praying for our nation, and we need to be doing so. Our nation needs a move of the Holy Spirit.

The only thing that can truly save our nation today is Jesus Christ and a move of the Holy Spirit with His church getting serious about living for Him and speaking to all of those around us about Him. Nothing else will fix the hole we are in. Nothing else but Jesus Christ.

Many of us are indeed expecting the next shoe to fall. We have no idea what it will be, but it is seriously dark in some areas of nation today and I find I do indeed spend time talking with those who have difficulty making sense of what is going on around us.



Psalm 44:9–12

“Yet You have rejected us and brought us to dishonor, And do not go out with our armies. You cause us to turn back from the enemy; And those who hate us have taken spoils for themselves. You turn us over to be eaten like sheep, And have scattered us among the nations. You sell Your people cheaply, And have not profited by their sale.” (NASB 2020)

We have no idea what is taking place that has brought this up. There really is no reference to outside events other than the nation has been engaged by an outside nation and that nation has not only prevailed but has also taken prisoners and it appears has sold off some of those who were taken. The nation is being scattered.

This did indeed happen to the nation, multiple times but when it did, they had been warned that unless they repented and returned, it would indeed happen. What happens here appears to be, from the outside looking in, unwarranted at least by those who are still left and deeply concerned by what God is doing.

The sons of Korah are now speaking more prophetically than they realize.

Daniel warns of an event to take place at the mid-point of the Tribulation. First comes the deception leading the nation to think, peace has come and they rebuild the Temple in confidence.

Daniel 9:27

“And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.” (ESV)

But those good times do not remain. “The Jewish leaders in Israel will someday believe that by entering this covenant they will be free from any further military invasions, military problems. However, God declares that this is not a covenant of life, but a covenant of death; not a covenant of heaven, but a covenant of hell.” (Fruchtenbaum, TH 293 Israelology: The Doctrine of Israel 2018)

Isaiah 28:14–15

“Therefore, listen to the LORD’s message, you who mock, **you rulers of these people who reside in Jerusalem. For you say, “We have made a treaty with death, with Sheol we have made an agreement. When the overwhelming judgment sweeps by it will not reach us. For we have made a lie our refuge, we have hidden ourselves in a deceitful word.”**” (NET 2nd ed.)

When Isaiah wrote these words, the nation thought they were free from the attack of Assyria. But this to was a pointer to the future Assyrian (Micah 5:4-5) that the nation would make a seven-year deal with.

Daniel 11:31

“Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.” (ESV)

Daniel 12:11–12

“And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.” (ESV)

Zechariah 12:2–3

“Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.” (ESV)



It appears that the sons of Korah are taking a current event and writing about a future one. Jesus adds to the scene.

Matthew 24:15–22

“So when you see the abomination of desolation—spoken about by Daniel the prophet—standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. The one on the roof must not come down to take anything out of his house, and the one in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing their babies in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. **For then there will be great suffering unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen. And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

There is a clear message from the Messiah to those who are heading for the city of refuge that has been appointed by the Lord southeast of Jerusalem. They are warned that as soon as they hear of this event happening, they are to get out of Israel and to get out of Israel quickly. The emphasis is on the need for speed and haste—not a single second to lose. The reason for the flight out of the land is because at this point worldwide anti-Semitism breaks out, and the worldwide persecution of the Jews begins and will continue for the next three and one-half years. (Fruchtenbaum, TH 293 Israelology: The Doctrine of Israel 2018)

Psalms 44:11–12

“You turn us over to be eaten like sheep, And have scattered us among the nations. You sell Your people cheaply, And have not profited by their sale.” (NASB 2020)

The sons of Korah are seeing that what was taking place with the nation, or what will take place is a complete reversal of what they had been considering earlier in the psalm. What they are seeing happen is shocking as the community still believes they have been following the Lord.

The remnant at the end of the age will also sound the same lament as they run for cover and realize the leadership trusted the wrong man.

For the sons of Korah, the recent turnaround on the battlefield and the defeat of the army is shocking. The nation has examined themselves and expresses the horror of what is taking place to the Lord as a reflection of His character, which they know the truth of but they are believing it reinforces the viewpoint of the those who do not follow the Lord.

We tend to think the same when we see bad things happen as well.

We all have the same problem though; we do not see the big eternal picture of what God is actually doing and what He has in the future.

From a prophetic viewpoint, as the nation has gone into hiding and thousands of His people hide all throughout the world, what they see is the current picture. For those of us who have studied Zechariah and Revelation, we know what the reality and glory that is coming truly is.

But when you are in the middle of it all, it can be tough to see. We “may not understand God’s ways, but he knows that the only way to proceed is by recognizing that God is as active in defeats as he is in victories and waiting for his explanation.” (Boice 2005, 376)

Job never was really told why he went through what he went through by the Lord. The toughest thing to do many times is to continue to trust in the Lord when it is tough to do so.



The sons of Korah continue with the complaints of the community of what they see taking place due to the reversal on the battlefield.

Psalm 44:13–16

“You make us an object of reproach to our neighbors, Of scoffing and ridicule to those around us. You make us a proverb among the nations, A laughingstock among the peoples. All day long my dishonor is before me And I am covered with my humiliation, Because of the voice of one who taunts and reviles, Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.” (NASB 2020)

There is a continuation of telling the Lord what He has allowed to happen. It is tough to lose. I remember when I played football, we went 10-0-1. We tied one game and that was hard to take, especially since I was the reason.

We scored the winning touchdown, but I went offside during the play. It was all for nothing. Not only were we scorned by those who watched the game, but my teammates were of no help to me at all.

I can completely identify with what is written here. But it was my fault. For everyone else on the team, they did nothing wrong, other than blow multiple opportunities to score because of a team failure to follow the game plan.

We have people in our culture today who are so convinced of their view and position that they not only disrupt church services, but they also scorn and make fun of all of us who dare to follow Jesus Christ.

As a Christian, we also identify with this. It appears to be a centuries long theme for the follower of Jesus Christ. Believers are scoffed, ridiculed, made fun of and now, intentionally humiliated. It is easy to find ourselves going the same direction of the nation as this took place, or of the remnant. I like how Charles Spurgeon discussed this.

“Those whose heads were emptied wagged them at the separated people. They were the common butts of every fool’s arrow. Such has been the lot of the righteous in ages past, such is their portion in a measure now, such may be yet again their heritage in the worst sense. The world knows not its nobility, it has no eye for true excellence: it found a cross for the Master, and cannot be expected to award crowns to his disciples.” (Spurgeon n.d., 304)

Psalm 44:17–19

“All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, And our steps have not deviated from Your way, Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals And covered us with deep darkness.” (NASB 2020)

As His people, as we go through the dark times, what is it that we are to do? Here in verse 17 we see what faith looks like. We have not opted to forget who it is we worship and serve. He is still at the top of our mind, and we are still following Him and in the case of the sons of Korah, remaining faithful to the covenant with God.

In other words, they are remaining faithful to Torah and are following Him. For us, it means we continue to follow Jesus no matter what. We know who we serve and can fully agree with Paul.

2 Timothy 1:12

“which is why I suffer as I do. **But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.**” (ESV)

Christ remained faithful all the way to the cross, he demonstrated for us what faithfulness looks like.



Hebrews 3:1–6

“Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partners in a heavenly calling, take note of **Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess, who is faithful to the one who appointed him**, as Moses was also in God’s house. For he has come to deserve greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house deserves greater honor than the house itself! For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken. But **Christ is faithful as a son over God’s house. We are of his house, if in fact we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope we take pride in.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Things get dark, we press on. We do not turn back. We remain focused on the One who has paid it all for us.

Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

Paul and the sons of Korah would be on agreement on this, we are to “follow him in keeping a firm grip on their certain future, that they not be distracted along the way with lesser things (either Torah observance or opposition). (Fee 1995, 348)

For the remnant in the last days, it is very dark, yet a promise stands.

Zechariah 13:8–9

“In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ” (ESV)

There is a trap for all of us as we encounter trials, to do exactly as the nation has done and blame God because their expectations are not being met.

This is why, after blaming God for what they are going through, and that is indeed what they are doing in Psalm 44:9-14, they turn back to their faith in Him and continue to trust.

“This experience does not match what they had seen in the past. They delight in God, but God does not seem to bless them or give them the victory. So now, instead of boasting in the Lord, they are complaining to the Lord. It seems that somehow, in the midst of their learning of God’s work in the distant past and experiencing God’s work in the recent past, they had developed a certain understanding of how God works. It just made sense: if all their victories were because God delighted in them and was fighting for them, then all their defeats must be because God was angry with them and fighting against them. They simply did not know how else to process this difficult season.” (Smith and Akin 2022, 312)

We are really no different. As a result, we identify with the following.

Psalm 44:20–26

“If we had forgotten the name of our God Or extended our hands to a strange god, Would God not find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. But for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. Wake Yourself up, why do You sleep, Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. Why do You hide Your face And forget our affliction and oppression? For our souls have sunk down into the dust; Our bodies cling to the earth. Rise up, be our help, And redeem us because of Your mercy.” (NASB 2020)



The sons of Korah relate to us what it is they are praying about, based on their understanding of the covenant, they are struggling.

God should have been with them; they should have experienced victory on the battlefield. Instead, they had experienced a total reversal and a crushing defeat. Yes, this is indeed a picture of what will take place at the mid-point of the Tribulation when the Beast turns against Israel and they all must flee for safety.

Instead, the people reflect that they feel like sheep only good for the slaughter. Yes, they are indeed asking God to not only show up on their behalf but they are also reminding Him of the covenant and are expressing what they think should happen as a result of that.

When we pray, do we ever begin to try and instruct God on how He should answer our prayers? Yes, we all do. And yes, we shouldn't presume on the Lord in this way. The Lord provides us clear direction in His word and as we consider it, even in the midst of a trial, we look and say, "but God." At that point, we too are attempting to provide the creator of the universe a lesson.

There is a prophetic reality to what is here as well, the remnant of Israel will indeed be persecuted during the Great Tribulation. Millions will indeed be killed as Satan tries to destroy all Jews on the planet. And God will indeed remember His covenant with His people.

Zechariah 14:3-4

"Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward." (ESV)

In verse 23 we see a call for God to awaken. He is not asleep at all. Desperation is the reason for the cry. All seems lost and the reversal from the first part of psalm 44 is so intense, the people have not only complained to God in prayer, but they are also asking Him to wake up.

Psalms 121:4

"Behold, **he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**" (ESV)

What we are learning in this psalm is, since we are all human and will indeed pass through those times of trial where it seems dark, it is okay to cry out to the Lord. It is okay to pray and ask Him why.

Every person will have an experience of feeling unjustly punished at some point in life. And every believer will question God concerning justice at some point in life. The words of Psalm 44 affirm that God invites believers to cry out, ask questions, reflect on our own faithfulness, and call God to account for what is happening in our lives. And, while answers may elude us, we may affirm, along with the psalmist, that God's hesed is the compelling reason for us to be confident that, in the end, God will redeem us and be a help for us. (deClaissé-Walford and Tanner 2014, 415)

Let's pray.



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