

Psalm 44

"A Plea for God to Reinstate His Past Assistance of Israel"

For the choir director. A Maskil ¹ of the sons of Korah.

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A1 PRAISE FOR GOD'S PAST HELP OF ISRAEL 44:1-3

B1 Israel's Memory of God's Past Help 44:1

C1 Their hearing of God's work: *{1}* O God, we have heard with our ears,
Our fathers have told us ²

C2 The antiquity of God's work: The work that You did in their days, In the
days of old.

B2 The Exposition of God's Past Help (against nations who had resided in Canaan) 44:2

C1 His Dispossession of Nations (from the Land of Canaan): *{2}* You with
Your own hand drove out the nations; ³

C2 His Planting Israel in Canaan: Then You planted them;

C3 His Bringing Evil Against The Canaanites: You afflicted the peoples,

C4 His Dispersion of Them: Then You spread them abroad.

B3 The Exclusivity of God's Past Help 44:3

C1 It Was Not the Military Might of the Israelis That Gained Them Canaan

D1 *{3}* For by their own sword they did not possess the land,

D2 And their own arm did not save them,

¹ Superscription - Maskil: See note on Ps 32 superscription. The pathos of Psalm 44 and God's apparent rejection of the nation is mirrored in the plaintive requests of Psalm 85:4-7.

² 44:1 - told us: rehearsed or recounted for us (*siphru-lanu*, Piel from *saphar*; the noun is *se(i)pher*, meaning book or document).

³ 44:2 - drove out the nations: By the definition in vogue in the early 2000's, God refuses to be politically correct. He admits to being the instigator of ethnic cleansing. He admittedly drove out the nations who inhabited Canaan because He chose to give it to His chosen people, the Israelis. God's past is the key to the future. He will settle the so-called Palestinian refugee problem of today by dispossessing them tomorrow. He will drive them out, executing those who fight against Him and saving alive to live under Israeli rule those who choose to trust Him and cooperate with His purposes! God is not about to be politically correct to align Himself with the biases and prejudices of today's Progressive elite across the planet. He mockingly laughs at them for they view His rule and that of His Messiah as placing them in chains (Psalm 2:3-4)!

C2 But the Power and Grace of God

D1 The power of God: But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence,

D2 The grace of God: For You favored them.

A2 PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S FUTURE HELP OF ISRAEL 44:4-8

B1 The Psalmist's Personal Pledge and Plea 44:4

C1 His Pledge of Loyalty: {4} You are my King, O God;

C2 His Plea for Victory: Command victories for Jacob.

B2 The Psalmist's Expression of Corporate Confidence in God's Future Military Empowerment 44:5

C1 Repelling Adversaries: {5} Through You we will push back our adversaries;

C2 Defeating Foes: Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us.

B3 The Psalmist's Personal Rejection of Self-Reliance 44:6

C1 Not upon Bow: {6} For I will not trust in my bow,

C2 Nor upon Sword: Nor will my sword save me.

B4 The Psalmist's Acknowledgment of Past Corporate Salvation 44:7

C1 Salvation from Those Who Antagonize Them: {7} But You have saved us from our adversaries,

C2 Humiliation of Those Who Abhor Them: And You have put to shame those who hate us.

B5 The Psalmist's Commitment to Praise 44:8

C1 Prolonged Past Praise: {8} In God we have boasted all day long,

C2 Perpetual Future Thanksgiving: And we will give thanks to Your name forever.

A3 PAIN AT GOD'S PRESENT REJECTION OF ISRAEL 44:9-22

B1 The Statement of Rejection 44:9-16

C1 You Have Not Helped Us in Battle 44:9-10

D1 God's motive – rejection and dishonor of Israel: {9} Yet You have rejected *us* and brought us to dishonor, 44:9

D2 God's method – abandonment of the Israeli army: And do not go out with our armies.⁴

D3 The effect upon Israel 44:10

E1 Retreat in battle: {10} You cause us to turn back from the adversary;

E2 Loss of possessions: And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.

C2 You Have Exiled Us Among the Nations 44:11-12

D1 Mutton to be consumed: {11} You give us as sheep to be eaten

D2 Dispersed among the nations: And have scattered us among the nations.

D3 Sold without profit: {12} You sell Your people cheaply, And have not profited by their sale.

C3 You Cause Us Dishonor Among the Nations 44:13-16

D1 Corporately 44:13-14

E1 Local dishonor 44:13

F1 {13} You make us a reproach to our neighbors,

F2 A scoffing and a derision to those around us.

E2 International dishonor 44:14

F1 {14} You make us a byword among the nations,

F2 A laughingstock among the peoples.

⁴ 44:9 - do not go out with our armies. It is difficult to pinpoint historically when this might have been. Keil and Delitzsch, in their commentary, reject suggestions from the time of the Macabbees to post-exilic Jerusalem to Jehoiachin to Jehoshaphat to Joash, and ultimately settle on the time of David and the events resulting "from the Syro-Ammonitish war." In truth, we simply cannot know with certainty the precise historical background of this psalm.

D2 Personally 44:15-16

E1 The constancy of humiliation 44:15

F1 Dishonor: {15} All day long my dishonor is before me

F2 Humiliation: And my humiliation has overwhelmed me,

E2 The cause of humiliation 44:16

F1 Jeering speech: {16} Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles,

F2 Galling presence: Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.

B2 The Faithfulness of the People Despite the Rejection by God 44:17-22

C1 The Statement of Their Faithfulness 44:17-18

D1 The obstacles to faithfulness: {17} All this has come upon us, 44:17a

D2 The components of their faithfulness 44:17b-18

E1 Remembrance of God: but we have not forgotten You, 44:17b

E2 Integrity with regard to God's covenant: And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant.

E3 Straightforward heart: {18} Our heart has not turned back, 44:18

E4 Unswerving feet: And our steps have not deviated from Your way,

C2 Their Bewilderment at Their Extermination by God 44:19-22

D1 Their crushing defeat by God 44:19

E1 Broken and abandoned: {19} Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals

E2 Covered with a pall of death: And covered us with the shadow of death.

D2 Their inability to have deceived an omniscient God underscores their loyalty to Him 44:20-21

- E1 Their hypothetical apathy or idolatry 44:20
 - F1 Apathy: {20} If we had forgotten the name of our God
 - F2 Idolatry: Or extended our hands to a strange god,
 - E2 The impossibility of their having deceived God 44:21
 - F1 God's unerring ability to ascertain the truth: {21} Would not God find this out?
 - F2 God's omniscience: For He knows the secrets of the heart.
 - D3 Their ceaseless slaughter: {22} But for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.⁵ 44:22
- A4 PLEA FOR GOD'S PRESENT OF HELP ISRAEL: The Psalmist's Prayer on Behalf of Israel 44:23-26**
- B1 Awaken from Sleep and Do Not Reject Us 44:23**
 - C1 {23} Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord?
 - C2 Awake, do not reject us forever.
 - B2 Why Do You Ignore Our Oppression? 44:24**
 - C1 Hiding: {24} Why do You hide Your face
 - C2 Forgetting: *And* forget our affliction and our oppression?
 - B3 Our Sunken Estate 44:25**
 - C1 Our Soul: {25} For our soul has sunk down into the dust;
 - C2 Our Belly: Our body⁶ cleaves to the earth.

⁵ 44:22 - sheep to be slaughtered: Paul quotes this passage to argue that though both the New Testament believer as well as the Old Testament believer experience suffering, it is not because God does not love us, but because He has a larger purpose that will yet work all things out together for good to those who love Him (Rom. 8:28), cf. Rom 8:35-37: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." {37} But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.).

⁶ 44:25 - body: Lit. belly. BDB (authors of *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*) state that *beten* refers to the whole body when contrasted with *nephesh* (soul).

B4 Arise and Redeem Us for the Sake of Your Loyal Love 44:26

C1 Arise and Be for Us a Support: {26} Rise up, be our help,

C2 Ransom Us Because of Your Loyal Love: And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 44

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