

Psalm 143

"David's Prayer for Yahweh's Merciful, Instructive Deliverance from Enemy Oppression"

(A Psalm of David.)

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A1 DAVID'S YEARNING FOR YAHWEH'S MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE FROM DEPRESSION CAUSED BY ENEMY OPPRESSION 143:1-6

B1 His Plea for Yahweh's Attentive Response 143:1

C1 For a Hearing

D1 Of his prayer: *{1}* Hear my prayer, O LORD,

D2 Of his supplications: Give ear to my supplications!

C2 For a Response Based on Yahweh's Character

D1 His faithfulness: Answer me in Your faithfulness,

D2 His righteousness: in Your righteousness!

B2 His Plea for a Merciful Withholding of Judgment 143:2

C1 Because He is Yahweh's Servant: *{2}* And do not enter into judgment¹ with
Your servant,

C2 Because Complete Human Righteousness is Non-Existent: For in Your
sight no man living is righteous.

B3 The Occasion for His Plea: Depressing Oppression 143:3-4

C1 The Oppression of His Enemy 143:3

D1 Persecuting his soul: *{3}* For the enemy has persecuted my soul;

D2 Crushing his life: He has crushed my life to the ground;

D3 Forcing him underground: He has made me dwell in dark places,²
like those who have long been dead.

¹ Psalm 143:2 - judgment: Either David was acknowledging a specific sin of which he was guilty, or else he perceived his own perpetual sinfulness, much as the psalmist in 130:3 said, "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" See also Ps. 14:1-3, quoted in Rom. 3:10-12.

² Psalm 143:3 - dark places: For example, David was literally forced to hide in the inner recesses of caves (1 Sam. 22:1; 24:1-10; 2 Sam. 23:13).

C2 The Depression of His Psyche 143:4

D1 Overwhelmed spirit: {4} Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;

D2 Appalled heart: My heart is appalled within me.

B4 His Intense Meditation upon Yahweh 143:5-6

C1 His Reflection on Yahweh's Past Works 143:5

D1 {5} I remember the days of old;

D2 I meditate on all Your doings;

D3 I muse on the work of Your hands.

C2 His Utter Yearning for Yahweh 143:6

D1 His stretched out hands: : {6} I stretch out my hands to You;

D2 His thirsty soul: My soul *longs* for You, as a parched land. Selah.

A2 DAVID'S URGENT PLEA FOR GUIDANCE, DELIVERANCE, AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION, AND FOR DESTRUCTION OF HIS ENEMIES 143:7-12

B1 His Plea for Yahweh's Rapid, Focused Response 143:7

C1 Because His Spirit is Failing: {7} Answer me quickly, O LORD, my spirit fails;

C2 Lest He Die

D1 Facial focus: Do not hide Your face from me,

D2 Preventing death: Or I will become like those who go down to the pit.³

B2 His Plea for Yahweh's Early Guidance, Rewarding His Faith and Petition 143:8

C1 Early Response Rewarding Faith

D1 Loyal love in the morning: {8} Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning;

D2 Faith: For I trust in You;

³ Psalm 143:7 - pit: A reference to Sheol, the place of the dead.

C2 Guidance Rewarding Petition

D1 Guidance: Teach me the way in which I should walk;

D2 Petition: For to You I lift up my soul.

B3 His Plea for Deliverance, Rewarding Refuge 143:9

C1 Deliverance from Enemies: {9} Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies;

C2 Refuge in Yahweh: I take refuge in You.

B4 His Request for Instruction and Guidance 143:10

C1 Instruction from His Elohim

D1 Instruction in obedience: {10} Teach me to do Your will,

D2 Identification with his Deity: For You are my God;

C2 Guidance from Yahweh's Spirit: Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

B5 His Plea for Preservation of His Life and Deliverance of His Vitality 143:11

C1 Animation of His Body in Deference to Yahweh's Name: {11} For the sake of Your name, O LORD, revive⁴ me.

C2 Extrication of His Vitality in Deference to Yahweh's Righteousness: In Your righteousness bring my soul⁵ out of trouble.

B6 His Request for the Destruction of His Enemies 143:12

C1 The Leverage for His Request -- Yahweh's Loyal Love: {12} And in Your lovingkindness,

⁴ Psalm 143:11 - revive: The Heb. *chayah* (2421) in the [Piel](#) stem, means "preserve [me] alive" – "let [me] live" (*Brown Driver Briggs Lexicon* ([BDB](#)) and bears no relation whatever to the American concept of "revival" meetings. David is asking that his physical life might be preserved, and, because he is so stressed out from fleeing for his life, that he might be physically rejuvenated.

⁵ Psalm 143:11 - soul: Heb. *nephesh* (5315) - the "inner living being" ([BDB](#)). *Chay* (2416) [from the same stem as *chayah* (2421)] and *nephesh* appear in proximity in Gen. 2:7, "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living (*chay*) being (*nephesh*)."

C2 The Substance of His Request -- Destruction

D1 Of his enemies: cut off my enemies

D2 Of those who afflict him: And destroy ⁶ all those who afflict my soul,

C3 Additional Leverage for His Request: For I am Your servant.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 143

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⁶ Psalm 143:12 - destroy: The enemy of God's people is the enemy of God. As this note is being written (July, 2006), Israel faces constant rocket bombardment from Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon. Doubtless, devout modern-day Israelis are praying the same kind of prayer David did.

In the present economy of God, the state is authorized to use the sword to protect its citizens (Romans 13:1-5). In relation to our own personal (not state) enemies, we Christians are instructed to bless, not curse those who persecute us (Romans 12:14), for the Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

However, Divine forgiveness and mercy spurned is eternal judgment earned, and, in the final analysis, God will answer David's prayer for the destruction of enemies, for when God creates a [new heavens](#) and [new earth](#), it cannot and will not be tainted by the slightest smudge of evil (2 Pet. 3:13). The wicked will be utterly excluded from utopia (Rev. 20:10-15; 21:1, 8, 27). Revelation, the book of apocalyptic judgment, ends with a pleading invitation to all sinners who are thirsty for God, forgiveness, and eternal life, to come and "take the water of life without cost" (Rev. 22:17).

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- B5 His Plea for Preservation of His Life and Deliverance of His Vitality 143:11
- B6 His Request for the Destruction of His Enemies 143:12

Condensed Outline of Psalm 143

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