

**MONDAY      Trust in Times of Trouble**

- Point of worship = express honestly/opening our feelings/viewpoints to God in prayer
- Many Christians believe to utter complaint about our circumstances of innocent suffering = faithlessness
- Psalms of lament / recorded by Divine inspiration
  - for benefit of all = who have felt confusion/despair
- Psalm 44 = relevant to believers of all ages
  - Shows us not to invalidate our feelings of despair = by denying we are burdened beyond measure

**2 Corinthians 1:8–9** <sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were **burdened beyond measure**, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

<sup>9</sup>Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

- **Hebrews 4:16** = come boldly before God's throne of grace
- don't censure / deny your experience = or you will remain in bondage to your emotions

**Psalm 44 = Psalm of faith and sorrow**

- Israel experiencing / disturbing defeat on battlefield
- Records experience of those confused by suffering/despair
- Although likely written during time of David, author was not David = superscription over psalm reads:
  - To the chief musician for the sons of Korah

**Psalm 44** = divided into 3 parts = focus on what God has done in past / confusion on what He was doing or not doing currently / focus on future redemption

1. Psalmist begins w/praise for God = acknowledging God's divine grace and intervention in Israel's past to give them victory over enemies

**Psalm 44:5** Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

- expresses trust in God alone

2. Changes midstream = bitter complaint in middle expressing confusion

- Psalmist concluded = God had abandoned Israel because so easily defeated = contrasted God's former mighty presence among them
- Psalmist confused = Israel sincerely following God (not reached out to idols)
- **Even though had not forsaken God's covenant / spiritual walk w/ Lord = God was allowing / godless foe to route them**

Psalm 44 can help worshipers articulate their experience of **innocent suffering** freely and adequately. Praying the Psalms helps people experience freedom of speech in prayer. The Psalms give us words that we can neither find nor dare to speak. "Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from Your way; but You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death" (*Ps. 44:18, 19, NKJV*).

**Psalm 44:22** Yet for **Your sake** we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

- Israel's suffering not because / deserted God,
  - but because she remained faithful to God
- Satan/his wicked followers hate righteous – opposition strong
- God's people today – endure affliction just as people of Israel did in their faithfulness to God

**Romans 8:35–39** <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” [DIRECT QUOTE PS 44:22] <sup>37</sup>Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>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.

### 3. ENDS ACKNOWLEDGING REALITY OF GOD AND HIS LOVE

Cries out in faith = for future deliverance from enemies

**Psalms 44:23–26** <sup>23</sup>Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

- Psalm 121:4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- Arouse = awake = God never sleeps, but as humans we sometimes perceive Him as unaware of our circumstances
- Psalmist knew that = calling upon God to act

<sup>24</sup>Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression? <sup>25</sup>For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground.

- When cannot understand your circumstances = can't see God's hand working = look up, trust His heart

<sup>26</sup>Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

- Psalmist calls out to God with boldness – to fight for Israel again
- Comes full circle = started w/history of God's faithfulness and intervention
- Ends w/ hope for His gracious redemption in near future
- Word translated as “mercy” = HESED = God's lovingkindness / covenant faithfulness
- HOPE FOR TODAY = CAN TRUST HIM IN TIMES OF TROUBLE