

# Suffering for the Lord's Sake

Psalms 44 (Page 410-11 in the BPB)

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## Introduction:

### **“For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.”**

“A Maskil” – found in 13 psalms. It may be a designation for a teaching poem/psalm.

“Of the Sons of Korah” – They were descendants of Kohath, son of Levi, who served in the temple as musicians. (1Chron. 6:22, 31-32)

Whereas Psalms 42-43 are personal lament psalms, Psalm 44 is a psalm of national lament due to military defeat.

### **Chiastic Structure of verses 1-8.** (VanGemeren, EBC, Vol. 5, p. 339)

- A. Traditions of the Past (v.1)
- B. Victory over the Past Enemies (v. 2)
- C. Victory Not by Human Strength (v. 3a)
- D. Victory by the Lord (v. 3b)
- E. Confession of Personal Confidence (v. 4)
- D'. Victory by the Lord (v. 5)
- C'. Victory Not by Human Strength (v. 6)
- B'. Victory over Past Enemies (v. 7)
- A'. Praise of God by the Present Generation ((v. 8)

## **I. Recalling the Stories of God's Favor, “In the Days of Old” (1-3)**

The current generation has heard from their fathers the stories of how God drove out the nations from the land of Canaan by His great power and how He planted His favored people in the land and caused them to spread throughout the land.

Joshua 4:20-24; 21:43-45

“For You favored them” “delighted in them” (ESV)

## **II. Personal Confession of Confidence in God, the King (4-8)**

Confession: "You are my King, O God" (4)

Psalms 5:2; 9:7-10; 10:16-18; 11:4-7; 93:1-2; 96:10; 145:1-2, 11-12

Their confidence is not in their own might and abilities but in God in whom they praise and give thanks.

Zech. 4:6 "...This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts."

## **III. Confusion and Complaint before God for Current Circumstances (9-16)**

They understand that God, as King, is sovereign over all things. Their current situation has caused them to present their case before the LORD.

"Yet You have rejected us...brought us to dishonor...You do not go out with Your armies...You cause us to turn back from the adversary....you give us as sheep to be eaten...."

## **IV. Claim of Covenant Faithfulness (17-22)**

<sup>17</sup>All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You,  
And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant.

<sup>18</sup>Our heart has not turned back,  
And our steps have not deviated from Your way,

<sup>19</sup>Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals  
And covered us with **the shadow of death.**

<sup>20</sup>If we had forgotten the name of our God  
Or extended our hands to a strange god,

<sup>21</sup>Would not God find this out?  
For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Hebrew 4:13

<sup>22</sup>**But for Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.**

**Romans 8:36 (8:35-39)**

God's people have had similar experiences throughout the ages: Job, Joseph, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, etc.

## **V. Prayer for God's Help (23-26)**

<sup>23</sup>Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord?  
Awake, do not reject us forever.

<sup>24</sup>Why do You hide Your face  
And forget our affliction and our oppression?

<sup>25</sup>For our soul has sunk down into the dust;  
Our body cleaves to the earth.

<sup>26</sup>Rise up, be our help,  
And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.

**God's people are not exempt from suffering.**

Acts 14:21-22

Philippians 1:29

Colossians 1:24

**1 Peter 1:6-9**

2:18-25

3:13-18

4:12-19

5:8-11

**In the midst of suffering, like the psalmist, we remember  
God and comfort ourselves with His promises.**

Romans 8:37-39