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The  
Songs  
44

# PSALMS - The SONGS

Forty-four

Command Victories for Jacob  
Because of Your Lovingkindness, O God!

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the Name of the LORD with a yellow box filled in with purple.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to God's covenant or His lovingkindness with a yellow box filled in with red.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the psalmist, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the nation of Israel, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. us, Your people, Jacob, etc.) with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the affliction or oppression of God's people with a blue teardrop.

Read through **Psalm 44** and underline every reference to land in brown.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to the nations, including all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. peoples, adversaries) with a purple flag.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 44** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 44** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. O God, You gave us the land
2. O God, You are the One Who will bring victories for us
3. O God, You do not go out with our armies
4. O God, We have not broken Your Covenant
5. O God, Redeem us because of Your lovingkindness

## READ AND ANSWER

### Psalm 44:1-3

Can you tell who is speaking in **verse 1**?

What group does the speaker represent?

To Whom is the psalmist speaking?

Who are the “we” in **verses 1** through **3**?

Who are the “they” in **verses 1** through **3**?

What did the fathers of Israel tell their descendants about God?

What did the fathers of Israel tell their descendants about their possession of the land of Israel?

What work did God do in the days of the fathers of Israel?

What are the days of the fathers called?

In case you haven't seen it yet, what one work of God is spoken about in **verses 1** through **3**?

Who lived in the land before Israel?

Who drove the nations out of the land? (In those days it was called the land of Canaan.)

How did God drive the nations out of the land of Canaan?

What did God do after He drove the nations out of the land of Canaan?

Who is "them"? Who did God plant in the land of Canaan?

What did God do with the nations, or the peoples?

Why did God afflict the peoples of the land?

Who was spread abroad? (Be careful here. Read the entire **Psalm**, then read **verses 1** through **3** several times. Context always gets to determine the answer.)

Who planted the Israelites in the land of Canaan?

Were the Israelites able to conquer the nations living in the land of Canaan through their own sword?

What about their own power—is that how they obtained the land of Canaan?

How did the Israelites *not* possess the land?

1.

2.

Then how? How were they able to drive out the nations of Canaan and take it for themselves?

1.

2.

3.

Why did God do this for them? Why did God drive out the nations of the land of Canaan and plant the nation of Israel there instead?



**In the day and age in which we live it is often easy to forget the truth.  
The whole earth belongs to the LORD!  
And that includes the Middle East...  
the land of Israel...  
the city of Jerusalem...  
and the Temple Mount.**

**God owns it all!  
He has all rights to it!**

**And...  
He can give it to whomever He chooses...  
He chose to give it to the nation of Israel...**

**And...  
That settles it!**

## **Psalm 44:4-8**

Who is the psalmist still talking to?

In **verses 1** through **3** the psalmist talked about the history of Israel—the fathers and the nations who were driven out of the land by God in order to plant the Israelites there instead. Is the psalmist still referring to the history of Israel in **verses 4** through **8**?

Who determines the victor in a battle or war?

Who does the psalmist say is his King?

What does the psalmist want his King to do?

For whom does the psalmist want the King to command victories? (Jacob is another name for Israel.)

What does the psalmist hope to accomplish?

1.

2.

How does he expect Jacob to be able to push back its enemies?

How does he expect Jacob to be able to trample down those who rise up against them?

In contrast to trusting his God for victories, what does the psalmist know is not trustworthy?

1.

2.

What will his bow or sword *not* do?

Has Jacob been saved in the recent past (in contrast to the distant past of the fathers)?

Has Israel put to shame it's enemies who hate them in the recent past, as well?

What is the difference between being saved from your enemies and shaming your enemies?

In Whom did Jacob boast?

How often?

Why had Jacob boasted all day long in their God?

What else had they been doing (in regard to their God)?

Why would they give thanks to His Name?

How long did they promise to give thanks to His Name?

Why did they expect to give thanks to His Name forever? What did they expect He would do for them?

**Psalm 44:9-16**

With what word does **verse 9** begin?

What, does it seem, had God done for Israel in the distant past and in the recent past, but was not doing at the present time?

What does the psalmist say was God's current dealing with them concerning their enemies?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Who does the psalmist say is responsible for their dishonor?

Why did Jacob need God to go out with their armies?

If you turn back from your adversary, are you winning, or have you lost?

If those who hate you have taken spoil from you, what has happened?

What does it mean to be given as sheep to be eaten?



**Romans 8:36**

*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.”***

How were the Israelites scattered among the nations?



**The nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms in 931 BC.  
The Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Assyria.**

**2 Kings 17:6-8**

***In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria  
and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria,  
and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan,  
and in the cities of the Medes.***

***Now this came about  
because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God,  
who had brought them up from the land of Egypt  
from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt,  
and they had feared other gods and walked in the customs of the nations  
whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel,  
and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.***

**The Southern Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Babylon.**

**Jeremiah 25:8-9**

***Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts,  
“Because you have not obeyed My words,  
behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,”***

**declares the LORD,  
“and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant,  
and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants  
and against all these nations round about;  
and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing,  
and an everlasting desolation.”**

**Jeremiah 22:8-9  
Many nations will pass by this city; and they will say to one another,  
“Why has the LORD done thus to this great city?”  
Then they will answer,  
“Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD their God  
and bowed down to other gods and served them.”**

**But He is not finished with Israel...**

**Jeremiah 16:14-15  
“Therefore behold, days are coming,”  
declares the LORD,  
“when it will no longer be said,  
‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’  
but,  
‘As the LORD lives,  
who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north  
and from all the countries where He had banished them.’  
For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.”**

What does **verse 12** mean when it says that God sold His people so cheaply that He did not even make a profit doing so?

How did God make Israel a reproach, a scoffing, and a derision to her neighbors?

Why had Israel become a byword and laughingstock among the nations?

Why was the psalmist's dishonor always before him?

1.

2.

What humiliation did the psalmist experience?

Who was the “voice” who reproached and reviled Israel?

Who was the enemy and the avenger who was in the presence of Israel?

**Psalm 44:17-19**

What has happened to Israel? What has come upon them?

What does the psalmist claim is true of Israel?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

According to the Covenant Israel was in with the LORD, what should have been happening to Israel if she was obedient?

Despite the claim of obedience, what does **verse 19** say God did to them?

- 1.
- 2.

**Psalm 44:20-26**

What does the psalmist say Israel was not guilty of?

1.

2.

What specific sin is being referred to?

Would God have known if they were guilty of idolatry?

How?

Who is being killed “all day long”?

Why? Why are God’s people being killed all day long?



**Romans 8:36**

*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.”***

Is this still true? (Paul quotes **Psalm 44:22** in the book of **Romans**, which was written to the church.)

Why are believers today killed all day long?

What are God’s people regarded as?

The psalmist has been stating his case to God slowly and methodically. What is his objective?

What does he call God to do in light of all he has said?

- 1.
- 2.

In context, what does it mean that the LORD is “asleep”?



**Psalm 121:4**

***Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.***

**The psalmist obviously feels that the Lord is asleep on His watch over Israel because Israel has been suffering and he can't figure out why.**

**The truth is that the One Who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. He is awake and watchful over everything pertaining to her.**

**Psalm 121**

***A Song of Ascents.***

***I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;***

***From where shall my help come?***

***My help comes from the LORD,***

***Who made heaven and earth.***

***He will not allow your foot to slip;***

***He who keeps you will not slumber.***

***Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.***

***The LORD is your keeper;***

***The LORD is your shade on your right hand.***

***The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.***

***The LORD will protect you from all evil;***

***He will keep your soul.***

***The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in***

***From this time forth and forever.***

**Although every bit of Psalm 121 is perfectly and marvelously true, it does not contain *all* the truth there is to know about God's care for Israel.**

**God has His Own glorious plans for Israel.**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

***“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD,  
“plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”***

**In order to bring about His plans, Israel must release her sins—  
she must be purified.**

**In order for her to release her dross,  
she will need to undergo a cleansing process—  
one that includes great tribulation.**

**Israel’s final purification process will take place  
during the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel’s 70th week,  
often called the Great Tribulation.**

**She will be subjected to suffering that is unimaginable.**

**Sadly, that very suffering is what it will take  
in order for her to let go of her rebellion against God.**

**But God’s plan will be successful—  
and although 2/3 of Israel will be killed during this horrific time,  
a remnant of 1/3 will come out shining like gold,  
repentant and righteous.**

What does the psalmist believe the Lord has been “neglecting” due to His sleep?

What does the psalmist want the Lord to do upon awaking?

According to the psalmist, how would this be made manifest?

What rhetorical question does the psalmist ask God?

What does the psalmist believe God is ignoring?

1.

2.

What makes the psalmist believe God is ignoring Israel's affliction and oppression?

1.

2.

What does the psalmist want God to do immediately?

What does the psalmist want God to do upon rising up?

1.

2.

On what grounds does the psalmist believe he can convince God to rise up and deliver them from their situation?

## READ AND REASON

In His Covenant with Israel, the LORD had promised to give her blessing, prosperity, and life if she obeyed Him. He had also promised to give her cursing, adversity, and death if she disobeyed Him. He was always true to His Covenant and at the same time, He was patient with her.

So the question has to be asked, "Why was Israel being dishonored by the nations if she were truly following God's Covenant with her?"

Could it be that she was not innocent at all but had deceived herself as was common for her to do?

Could it be that she (as a whole) was only innocent of idol worship at that time, but not righteous in all her ways, which would fit with the narrative given us in the Old Testament of her behavior?

### **Jeremiah 2:23**

***How can you say, "I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Baals"? Look at your way in the valley! Know what you have done! You are a swift young camel entangling her ways...***

Or could it be that this is more of a prophetic **Psalm** than we realize at first glance?

Could this be happening during the time of the Great Tribulation in which the Jews will be mercilessly attacked by the nations of the world (**verses 9-16**)? In that time, even the righteous remnant of Israel (**verses 17-21**) will be mowed down like so much grass by a cruel and determined anti-christ (**verse 22**). At that time, as now, the Law is replaced by Grace and God no longer is Covenant bound by their obedience nor by their disobedience. Could the righteous remnant be asking their God to arouse Himself from sleep because it seems to them that He has hid His face from them for so long (**verses 23-26**)?

Whatever the time period in which **Psalm 44** was written, we can still see its theme, which is main and plain, shine through the obscurity of history...

When Israel seemed to be doing well, it was not by her own strength—it was the favor of her God which provided the victory. It had always been God's right hand, God's right arm, and the light of His presence which was their strength. And conversely, they were constantly overwhelmed by their enemies without Him.

It had always been the lovingkindness of the LORD which caused Him to look upon them with favor—nothing in and of themselves. He chose Israel for His own purpose—His Glory! And ultimately, He would (and will) save them and deliver them from all enemies forever, not because of anything they did (or do), but for the sake of His lovingkindness and the sake of His Name...

 Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.**

**Verses 1-3**

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**Verses 4-8**

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**Verses 9-16**

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Verses 17-19

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Verses 20-26

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~ Purpose of Psalm 44

Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 44.  
The purpose simply states “*why* the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.

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~ Theme of Psalm 44

Try giving Psalm 44 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states “*what* the Psalm is about”.

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