

Psalm 44 — “How God Wants You to Think & Respond in Present Troubles”

“It behooves us to always be ready to bear the cross of Christ with Him!” (John Calvin)

“A time of trouble is NO time to deny or forget the LORD” (William Plumer)

- Ps 44 is a *national lament*. Some features from Psalm 44:
 - they feel rejected (9)
 - they are dishonored (9)
 - they are plundered & despoiled (v.10)
 - they are scattered/exiled (11)
 - are reproached/shamed (13)
 - they are mocked, derided from others (13)
 - they are defeated (15-16)
 - **Why? it is to drive them to a resolved trust in God’s Loyal Love.!**

➔**THE POINT of Ps 44:** In times of suffering, hope in God’s loyal-love.

Background to Psalm 44

- Author: “sons of Korah” - Levites; Temple musicians (2 Chron 20.19)
- The **Superscript** [intro] has: מְשִׁיבֵי לֵי - to give wisdom/instruction in *Godly living*.
- The **Subscript** [conclusion; Ps 45 header] has: for choir director (public singing) even with the tune of “Shoshanim” (evidently a song-tune titled: “lillies”).

THESIS — Ps 44 shows us a “National Lament” — widespread, public, national disaster! Let’s observe this national lament in 3 movements.

I. OUR PAST TRIUMPHS (1-8)**II. OUR PRESENT TROUBLES (9-16)**

III. OUR PERSEVERING TRUST (17-26)**So then: *why* does God bring suffering to his people ??**

1. To glorify, honor and praise God’s Own Name/reputation (Isa 44-45)
2. To purify and humble his people to shred self-confidence (2 Cor 4)
3. To prove the genuineness of their faith by persevering (James 1)
4. To demonstrate the power of His grace in preserving His own (2 Cor 12)
5. To persuade believers to think of their suffering in light of Christ’s sufferings (Heb 12)
6. To prepare them & heighten their longing for a suffering-less glory (Rev 21-22)
7. To radiate the covenantal, unbreakable divine love of God (Rom 8; Ps 44)**

Verse 22 is the *key* to the entire psalm — “But For Your Sake....”

God—all this is happening for *YOUR* sake

****The profound, timely, and appropriate use of Psalm 44:22 in Romans 8:36 —**

→THE POINT of Ps 44: In times of suffering, hope in God’s loyal-love.

Brief Word-Study on God’s *Hesed/Chesed* Love

(translated: loyal-love, lovingkindness, steadfast love; Ps 44:26)

Verse 26b - “For the sake of your *Lovingkindness*” (Hebrew: *Hesed* — covenantal, loyal, unbreakable love)

Old Testament scholar Daniel Block describes *hesed* as “that quality that moves a person to act for the benefit of another without respect to the advantage that it might bring to the one who expresses it.... [T]his quality is expressed fundamentally in action rather than word or emotion.”

In the Old Testament, *hesed* is a central theological term. It is a key attribute in the Lord’s self-description in [Exodus 34:6–7](#), as well as an obligation that is placed on all of His people in [Micah 6:8](#). Yet because there is no exact English equivalent, it has proved hard for Bible translators to render it accurately. In various versions, it appears as “kindness,” “faithfulness,” “mercy,” “goodness,” “loyalty,” and “steadfast love.”

The most precious use of the word *hesed* in the Old Testament is as a description of what God does. Having entered a covenant relationship with His people, God bound Himself to act toward them in certain ways, and He is utterly faithful to His self-commitment. ...

In [Psalm 23:6](#), the psalmist declares that the Lord’s goodness and *hesed* will pursue him all the days of his life. The word *pursue* normally describes the action of pillaging armies and covenant curse, but the psalmist is convinced that instead of the covenant curse he deserves, the Lord’s faithful love and goodness will hunt him down relentlessly instead.

The fullness of the Lord’s *hesed* is seen in the cross: there the true *hasid*, Jesus Christ Himself—the only human ever truly to be loyal to the Lord and to His neighbor in every aspect of life—was treated as the covenant breaker and cursed for sin so that we who are unfaithful might be clothed in His faithfulness and thus redeemed. In this way, God’s original covenant purpose to have a people for His praise was faithfully accomplished.

The Lord’s *hesed* will never let us go. In the midst of life’s trials and tragedies, we may cry out to our loving Lord in confidence that nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the loyal love that chose us before time began, is sanctifying us in the present, and will faithfully bring us to our eternal home ([Rom. 8:28–30](#)). (Iain Duguid)

Hesed often has that flavor: it is not merely love, but loyal love; not merely kindness, but dependable kindness; not merely affection, but affection that has committed itself. (Dale Ralph Davis)

*Psalm 44 — "How God Wants You to Think & Respond in Present Troubles"***O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST****PSALM 44: PSALTER***Tune: "How firm a foundation"*

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

2. Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6. O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: William Croft. Public Domain.

O God, we have heard what our fathers have told,
What You did in their days, days glorious of old.
With Your hand You drove out the nations and gave
our fathers their land; crushed all foes in the grave.

It was not by sword that they took all the land,
Their arm brought no vict'ry—it was by Your hand;
Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face;
You loved them so truly, and showed them Your grace.

For You are my God, and You are my great King;
And vict'ries for Jacob You plan and You bring.
Through You all our enemies we can depose;
Through Your name we trample on all of our foes.

I trust not my bow or my sword for my fame,
For You give the vict'ry; put our foes to shame.
In God we will boast throughout all the day long;
We'll give praise to Your name forever in song. Selah

But now You've rejected and humbled us too;
You no longer go out when our armies do.
You made us retreat, as the enemy closed,
And we have been plundered by vi-o-lent foes.

You've given us up; we're devoured like sheep;
You've scattered us; among the nations we weep.
You sold us, Your people, and nothing did gain;
You gave up Your people for others to reign.

We're now a reproach to our neighbors and friends;
The scorn and derision of them never ends.
You've made us a byword among nations all;
They shake their heads at us, and mockingly call.

Disgrace is before me throughout all the day;
My face must be covered; shame won't go away.
They taunt and revile me; reproach never ends,
Because of my foes who are bent on revenge.

Now all this has happened, though we had been true;
We broke not Your cov'nant; did not forget You.
Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed;
You crushed us in darkness; a jackal's haunt made.

If we had forgotten the name of our God,
Or spread out our hands to a false, foreign god—
Would God not have seen it, since He knows our heart?
For Your sake we face death, like sheep torn apart.

Awake, Lord! Why sleep? Don't reject us again.
Why hide Your face, forgetting our oppression?
We're brought down to dust, our life's flung to the ground.
Rise up now and help us! Let Your love abound!

*Words: Tim and Julie Tennent, used by permission.**Music: Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832); Public Domain.*