

LESSONS FROM PSALMS FORTY-TWO AND FORTY-THREE

Scripture: Psalms 42:1 - 43:5

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. Most Bible commentators deal with these two Psalms as one. Most think they were once joined. Looking at the content and the headings, I feel they should be studied together.
  - B. It seems that these were penned by David while he was a fugitive living with the hated Philistines who denied the God he loved.
- I. LEARN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE MAY SOMETIMES BRING GOD'S PEOPLE TO A VERY LOW AND DEPRESSED CONDITION. vs.1-3;1,2
- A. David was shut off from Jerusalem and the temple of worship... not because of anything he had done; BUT because of an evil man who wished to destroy him.
    - 1. He felt like a deer... chased by hunters and kept away from the refreshing waters.
    - 2. He thirsted to come before the God he loved there in the temple. He wondered if he would ever meet God there again.
    - 3. He was forced to endure the taunts of the Philistines "Where is your God?"
    - 4. He asked God to judge him..to plead his cause against this unjust nation and t deliver him from Saul.
  - B. God's people even now must at times bear the tortuous acts of such deceitful and unjust persons
  - C. We too may feel that the God of our strength has cast us off and we are left to mourn because of the oppression of some friend turned enemy.
- II. LEARN THAT GOD'S DEPRESSED PEOPLE MAY COME TO THINK THAT GOD, HIMSELF, IS SET TO DESTROY THEM. vs.6,7,9,10,2
- A. David spoke of his soul being cast down within himself.
  - B. He saw the trouble as having come from God. v.7
  - C. He asks, "Why have you forgotten me?" v.9
  - D. He thinks that God has left him to be destroyed by his enemies. v.10
  - E. In every age of man's history, God's most precious saint have many times been left to suffer the pain and indignities forced on them by evil men. THESE TIMES ARE NOT AN EXCEPTION.
  - F. This does not mean that God is the author of the pain, it can mean that God sees such as special people designed to bring more honor and glory to Him than others.
- III. LEARN WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH PROBLEMS. vs. 4,5,8,3
- A. Remember that God is the God of my life... Remember His loving kindnesses... Remember that He is with me. v.8
  - B. Contrast the present with the past...THINGS are bad now, BUT they were not always this way. v.4
  - C. Dwell on the promises and the hope of the future. v.5
  - D. Verse 3, look to God for light and truth to:
    - 1. Understand present circumstances
    - 2. Have confidence that these shall bring us into God's holy presence.
  - E. Rest in the judgments and protection of God knowing that our God has our own best interests at heart in permitting such problems and hurt to come our way. vs.1,2
- IV. LEARN THAT WE SHALL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BY AND BY. vs.11,4,5

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- A. Following the light and truth of God we shall come to the altar of God where we shall worship Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. vs.4
- B. We shall find God, Himself, not things and circumstances, to be our exceeding joy. v.4
- C. We shall scold ourselves for having questioned God and His way. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" vs. 11,5
- D. We shall see our hope fulfilled in God, Himself. vs.11,5
- E. We shall praise Him for all He IS and for all He has done for us. vs. 11,5