

Praying in Times of Despair

S.R. Psalm 42:1 - 3

7 – 23 - 2023

Introduction

- A. The past week was very encouraging as we worked with over 160 young men.
 - 1. Thanks to the older wise guys who helped me prepare for Book 3 (73 – 89).
 - 2. Psalms provide an excellent refuge to re coup, refresh and re- enter the battle.
 - 3. But we remember that: “The battle belongs to the Lord” and “God puts your tears in His bottle” (Psa. 56)
 - 4. Looking with anticipation to praising our God and appealing to Him for help as we, as a family, lay before him our hurts, our hopes and our desires.
- B. We will read a psalm: actually two in one (42 – 43)
- C. Some observations before we begin
 - 1. We are now in Book 2 (Psalm 42 – 72) - Five books total (73, 90, 107)
 - 2. New emphasis on a characteristic of God:
 - a. Book 1 Jehovah - Yahweh – LORD – covenant maker – used 277 times
 - (i) *El – Almighty* only used 67 times
 - b. Book 2 *El -Elohim* - God – Almighty One – used 207 times in book 2
 - (i) Jehovah – only used 31 times
 - 3. New authors: David is primary in book 1.
 - 4. Sons of Korah (Psalm 42 – 49, 84, 85, 87, 88) Note the superscription at beginning.
- D. Who are the Sons of Korah?
 - 1. The Sons of Korah were the **sons of Moses' cousin Korah**. ... Korah led a revolt against Moses; he died, along with all his co-conspirators, when God caused "the earth to open her mouth and swallow him and all that appertained to them" (Numbers 16:31-33). However, "the children of Korah did not die" (Numbers 26:11).
 - 2. The event is recorded in Numbers 16. Korah is a grandson of Kohath, son of Levi. (16:1)
 - a. This branch of Levi's descendants was the one through whom the priest came.
 - 3. Korah, and two descendants of Reuben: Dathan and Abiram “contended against the Lord.” (Num 26:9)

4. Apparently Korah's children were not a part of this rebellion. (Num. 26:11)
"the children of Korah did not die"
 5. Samuel was a descendant of Korah – (1 Chronicles 6:31 – 38)
 - a. These men were responsible for "Songs in the house of the Lord" in the Days of David and Solomon (vs. 31)
 6. Korah's descendants were custodians and door keepers of the Tabernacle and later the temple (1 Chron. 9:19 – 21)
- E. These Psalms include verses that express highest praise and devotion to the Lord. While other verses provide images of deep humility and recognition of our frail humanity before a Holy God. Glimpses of their forefathers' dreadful past seep into some of these verses, as well. Take a look at these excerpts:
1. Psalm 42:1 – "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God."
 2. Psalm 48:1a – "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised"
 3. Psalm 84:1, 10 – "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**"
- F. Questions to ask in analysis:
1. Note the similar ending in each stanza. (42: 5, 11; 43:5)
 2. What questions are directed to God? Questions directed to self?
 3. What is the tone of the stanza? (42: 1 – 5, 6 – 11; 43:1 – 5)
 4. What does the song writer long to do and where to be?
 5. What or who fills the hunger of his heart and slakes his thirst?

I. Psalm 42: Longing for and Thirsting for God in time of trouble.

- A. Writer is in despair (depression – HCSB – Cast down – literal) (vs. 5 – 6, 11; 43:5)
- B. Note the similar ending of each stanza (5,11,43:5)

II. Psalm 42:6 - 11

- A. Want to be with the people of God in His presence, but the enemy reviles and oppresses me. Is someone keeping you from the prayer assembly?
- B. Deep calls to deep (vs. 7) youtube.com <https://youtu.be/5hZU6dfFW1U>
- C. The enemy may be your health.
- D. The enemy may be in your house, your neighbor, your children, your parents.
- E. Behind it all is Satan – our ultimate adversary (1 Peter 5:8)