



## Psalm 44

**Message:** "We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us."

### Structure:

1. Healing Historical Review. (VV. 2-9)
2. Describing the current disaster. (VV. 10-23)
3. Final request for termination of the disaster through the intervention of God. (VV. 24-27)

**Another scheme was put forward to reflect the flow of Psalm 44.**

1. Remembering that God performed mighty deeds in the past for his people (vv. 1-3).
2. Desiring God to perform mighty deeds now (vv. 4-8).
3. Lamenting God's "recent" chastening for his people (vv. 9-16).
4. Appealing to God that his chastening is not a result of their sin (vv. 9-16).
5. Calling on God to again engage in his mighty deeds on their behalf (vv. 23-26).

### Structure and Theme

The Psalm begins with a recounting of the days of old in verse 2, that God had driven out the nations and planted the Israelites, placing this well after the periods of conquest and the judges. The reference to scattering the Israelites among the nations in verse 11 could point to a date after either the Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. or after the Babylonians captivity in 586 B.C. However, some have noted that the reference to God not going out with their armies in verse 9 would indicate that the Jewish nation still had standing armies at the time of the writing of this Psalm and thus the setting would be prior to Judah's exile to

Babylon. In addition, the Psalmist's insistence in verses 17 and 18 that their plight was not due to national sin is further confirmation that the Psalmist is not referring to a time after the Babylonian exile, which the prophets made clear was, in fact, a result of idolatry and turning away from the Lord. By no means conclusive, a conflict is recorded in Isaiah 36, 2 Chronicles 32 and 2 Kings 18 matching the above suggested timeline for Psalm 44.

### **Literary Form**

Psalm 44 is a Psalm of **communal lament**, indicating that the suffering, in this case from being defeated by enemies, is communal.

This Psalm reflects each of **five key elements** of a lament, or complaint.

### **Psalm:**

- **Address:** Verse 1 "We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old". In this case, the Psalmist is speaking directly to God.
- **Complaint:** verses 9-16, 17-19 In these verses, the Psalmist laments that God has been slow to act and has a responsibility to save these people from their enemies.
- **Statement of trust** in the reliability of God as known by the Psalmist or community: verses 4—8. The Psalmist recites a history of Gods saving acts, which includes reference to God commanding victories for Jacob.
- **Petition for God's active intervention:** verses 23—26. These petitions can be quite specific. In verse 26, the Psalmist gives a direct command to God to "Rise up, come to our help."
- **Vow of thanksgiving:** verse 8. This particular Psalm includes a brief vow of thanksgiving in verse 8, when the Psalmist writes "In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever" (44:8)

Verse 22 is referenced by the Apostle Paul in the New Testament book "the Epistle to the Romans 8:36 in the context of realities that can make Christians think that they are separated from God's love.

This Psalm is appointed to be read on the morning of the ninth day of the month.

### **Praying Psalm 44**

You delighted in them, and you fought for them and saved them. The light of your face comforted and guided them. Your arm defended them. You are also my King and my God, and the light of your face comforts and guides me.

Lord, throughout history, you have been faithful to your people. You delighted in them, and you fought for them and saved them. The light of your face comforted and guided them. Your arm defended them.

You are also my King and my God, and the light of your face comforts and guides me. Lord, I trust in no other but you, even though there are times when the storms rage and troubles come, and I wonder where you are. Sometimes my own sin and flesh carry me away, and the enemy seems ever-present. My shame and disgrace sometimes also seem ever-present.

Lord, there are times when heaviness and darkness surround me, even though I know that my faithfulness to you is steadfast. There are days when I don't understand why your face is hidden from me or why it seems you forget my affliction. In those times, when my soul clings to the dust. I must remember your ever-present faithfulness to me. Even though my eyes don't see you, you are there; even though my hands cannot touch you, you are there; even when my mind forgets you, you are there. Please, Lord, come to my help; come to my aid! In these days of distress, cover me with your steadfast love and deliver me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Praying Psalm 44 with Kids**

Lord Jesus, I love the story of the Israelites and how you brought them out of slavery and into the promised land. You were so faithful and loving to them! Also, I remember the times when you were faithful to me. You are a loving and kind God, and you are always nearby. I know my heart is very sinful and that I get into trouble, but you are still faithful to me. Even when I can't see you, I will hold on to the truth and your promises and believe you are near to me!

In Jesus' name, Amen.