

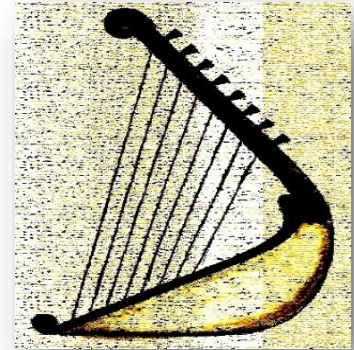
PSALM 143 vs 1

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Charles Spurgeon wrote: This Psalm is so much like other Davidic Psalms that we accept the title without hesitation. It is another resume of what the greats in the bible were recorded to experience. Why it is set as one of the seven Penitential Psalms, we can hardly tell; for it is rather a vindication of his own integrity, and an indignant prayer against his slanderers, than a confession of fault; he never dreamed of justifying himself before the Lord.

This Psalm is divided by the Selah (the musical interlude). May the Holy Spirit lead us into its inner meaning. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve**



A Psalm of David,

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD, listen to my requests: answer me, for You are right and full of faith

/ David knew that YHWH answered prayers; he knew our Father God is not aloof, who created and walked away. Rather He is the greatest father; who being timeless, has all eternity to actively pay attention to the petitions of all who call on Him.

² And do not enter into judgment with Your servant: for in Your sight no one living is righteous / like Paul, David would be first to argue, he was chief of sinners; David's greater Son kindly humble himself and pay a debt none of us could pay; David learned to do right, but his rightness was imputed to him; God declared him to be right, as He does for all who approach Him in spirit and truth.

³ For the enemy persecuted my soul; he thrashed my life down to the ground; and caused me to dwell in darkness, as those who are long dead / poor David, was driven by Saul's hatred to haunt caverns and holes, like an unquiet ghost; he wandered out by night, and lay hid by day like an uneasy spirit long denied rest in the grave. Good men began to forget him, as though he had been long dead, and bad men made ridiculed of his regretful presence, as though it belonged not to a living man.

⁴ Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart is appalled within me.

⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I consider the work of Your hands.

⁶ I stretch forth my hands to You: my soul thirsts after You, as in a parched land.

Selah / think about it; we come to a music interlude; a moment for our minds to pause and consider all that we have heard to this point.

⁷ Answer me speedily, O LORD: lest my spirit fails: do not hide Your face from me, lest I am like those who go down into the pit / if too long delayed, deliverance would come too late.

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⁸ Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I leant on You: cause me to know the way I should walk; for I lift my life to You / my sorrow is deafening; there is one voice that causes me to hear, to keep going.

⁹ Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies: I take refuge in You.

¹⁰ Teach me to do Your will; for You are my God / wow! how childlike, “teach me”; how practical, “teach me” to do Your will. David, knew how to do his will; and though he was king, David knew, he was not god; so he was different than those geniuses in our 21st century; who make themselves a wimpy god, and doing so have a challenging life that every step of the way, proves not only to them, but to all who watch, just how pathetic their lying blinds them from the truth of their failures: pretending what isn't, while concealing what is:

Your Spirit is good; lead me in the land of the upright.

¹¹ Enliven me, O LORD, for the sake of Your name: in Your rightness bring my soul from trouble;

¹² and in Your mercy cut off my enemies; destroy all afflicting my soul; for I am Your servant / the fair warning of Moses to the children entering the land promised to Abraham and his progeny, probably rang in David's ears: God would generously bless them and they would live long in the land, if they were faithful to His Word, specifically the ten instructions He gave them; teaching them to their children, and their children's children; and they would become a sign and wonder to the whole world; but if they chose His curses, Moses said: **Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and glad hearts; so you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, until He destroys you** – Deuteronomy 28.

David wanted to know God's blessing; which is why he called on Him; to learn from Him, to do what He said.

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