

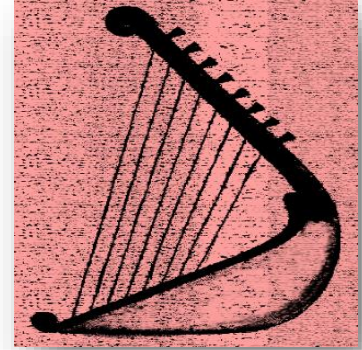
PSALM 44 vs 1

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To the Chief musician for the sons of Korah, Maschil – the title is similar to the forty-second. Who wrote this? We do not know. Perhaps, an Israelite patriot fallen on evil times, sings in mingled faith and sorrow, his country's ancient glory and present griefs; her tradition of former favor and her pressing ills. The last verses remind us of Milton's famous lines on the vile Massacre of Protestants by romans among the mountains of Piedmont.

Divisions: The Lord's mighty works for Israel is rehearsed (1-3); and in remembrance of their faith (4-8); then notes of complaint are heard (9-16); the faithfulness of the people is avowed (17-22); and the Lord is asked to interpose (23-26) – Charles Spurgeon.



To the Chief musician,

A Contemplation of the sons of Korah

¹ O God, with our ears we heard, our fathers told us, the work You did in their days, in days of old.

² How You with Your hand evicted the nations, and planted them; You afflicted the people, and sent them away.

³ For not by their own sword, did they seize the land, nor with their own arm save them: but it was Your right hand, and Your arm, and the light of Your presence, because You favored them.

Think about it: God loved them; He chose them for His love, and then loved them for His choice – John Trapp, 1611-1669. The mighty acts of God have been the subjects of common conversation; not left in books never read, but shared in the ordinary talk of the people. Hear this, you fathers who neglect to teach your children such things that work His fear in them, and faith to rely on Him – John Mayer, 1653.

⁴ You are my King, O God: who commands victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through You we push back our enemies: through Your name we trample their uprising.

⁶ For I do not lean on my bow, nor will my sword save me.

⁷ But You saved us from our enemies, and those who hate us You have shamed.

⁸ In God we brag all the day long, and Your name forever praise.

Selah. Think about it: he will not lean on any weapon or warlike instrument. We lean on God who gives our victory. Literally, we will toss them in the air with our horn, like an ox tossing an attacking wolf.

⁹ **But You rejected us,** / and the result: humiliating us; and did not go out with our armies.

¹⁰ causing us to retreat from the enemy: and those who hate us plunder for themselves.

¹¹ permitting us like sheep to be eaten; and among the nations scattered us.

¹² selling Your people for nothing, and are not enriched from the sale.

¹³ making us a reproach to our neighbors, a mockery and ridicule to those around us.

¹⁴ making us a byword among the nations, shaking their head among the people.

¹⁵ All day long my disgrace is before me, and **boshet** covers of my face,

¹⁶ because the voice of the insulter and reviler; because the enemy and revenger.

Think about it: God did not enhance the price, as a seller usually does to the buyer. Many were sold for a small price; there were many to be sold, but few to buy – Eusebius, 267-338.

¹⁷ All this happened; yet we have not forgotten You, nor cheated Your covenant.

¹⁸ Yet our hearts have not turned back; our steps have not departed from Your way;

¹⁹ but You crushed us in the place of **dragons**, and covered us with the shadow of death.

²⁰ If we forget the name of our God, or extended our hands to a foreign god;

²¹ would not God search this out? for He knows the secrets of the heart.

²² Yet for Your sake we are good as dead all day long; counted as sheep for the slaughter.

Think about it: Our understanding and mind are the same as they were in a summer's day, though now we are in a winter's storm; afflicted, tossed and broken, yet our mind and conscience, our whole soul, is the same now as before – Thomas Brooks, 1608-1680. "dragons" in Hebrew, tannin – are the great beasts in the bible; is it true that dinosaurs lived till recent years? The term dinosaur was invented in the 1850s.

²³ Arouse Yourself, are You sleeping, O LORD? Get up! **Do not reject us forever.**

²⁴ Do You hide Your face, forgetting our affliction and oppression?

²⁵ **For our soul has sunk down in the dust : our body clings to the ground** / so God gave them a lesson about Adam, the father of mankind, to remember where we all came from and will one day return.

²⁶ **Get up! Help us! and redeem us for the sake of Your mercy.** / Think about it: The weakness in our faith, often wrongly supposes that God does not regard the situation of His people in the world. Those in great error often condemn the other of what they have been doing. Who has been sleeping? Our God never slumbers or sleeps, He carefully watches over all His people.

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