

PSALMS 42-49

Introduction & Overview

- The Psalms point toward Jesus (Lk. 24:44), so...
 - The Psalms must be read not only individually but also in harmony together.
 - The Psalms must be read in harmony with the whole of the Scriptures.
- Such a reading will call us to greater praise and trust in God.

Psalms 42 & 43

- This is a three-stanza hymn (chorus in 42:5, 11; & 43:5).
 - 42:1-5--My soul thirsts for the presence of God.
 - 42:6-11--My soul is cast down because of my oppressors.
 - 43:1-5--So I will call on God to bring me back to His holy hill.
- Psalms 42-49 form a unit, written by the sons of Korah, in the Psalms.

Psalm 44

- Psalm 44 shifts from individual (42/43) to collective (44).
 - 44:1-8--God offered salvation for Israel.
 - 44:9-22--Yet God has forgotten the current generation.
 - 44:23-26--So arise to action, O God!
- Ps. 44:25 echoes the chorus of 42:5, 11 & 43:5.

Psalm 45

- Psalm 45 begins the resolution to the dilemmas of Psalm 42-44: the marriage of the King to the foreign daughter.
- Written perhaps with the story of Solomon in mind, this Psalm finds its true fulfillment in the marriage of Jesus the King to His saints (Lk. 4:19-22; Rev. 1:16 & 19:15).
- Psalm 45 offers hope to the despair of Ps. 42-44 by transforming rejection (42:5) to desire (45:11); forgottenness (42:9) to remembrance (45:17); a separated house (42:4) to a thriving household (45:16); oppression (42:3) to praise (45:17); removal from the temple (42:4) to entrance to the palace (45:15); & abandonment (42:4) to union in marriage (45:15).

Psalm 46

- Psalm 46 answers the call to be back in God's presence after being cast down (42-44), in light of the marriage of the King to the daughter (45).
- Psalm 46 paints an apocalyptic end of the nations as God rules as King.
- No longer is the Psalmist removed (42:4) but is in God's presence (46:4-5); no longer longs for the water (42:1) but finds the river (46:4); & no longer is in turmoil and roars (42:5) as the nations roar (46:3, 6) as God is now the exalted King.
- We should be still as we know that God is exalted among the nations.

Psalms 47-48

Questions to Consider:

1. Note: Please reread Psalms 42-46 before starting 47-48 to gain a context.
2. How do Psalms 47-48 fit into the flow of the Psalms to this point?
3. How does 47:1 echo 42:3-4?
4. How does 47:2-3 echo 46?
5. Where is God reigning in 48?
6. How does 48:3 echo 46?
7. How does 48:8-10 echo 42?
8. How does Psalm 47 provide a resolution to the cries of Psalm 42?
9. How does Revelation 21:9f connect to Psalm 47?
10. How can we apply Psalms 47-48 to our prayers?