

PSALM 44 - Redemption Remembered in Present Dishonor!

5/14/22 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! –Thomas Chisholm – William Runyan (3:40)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!

PSALM 44 begins the first eight verses with the declarations of the things that they have heard about God and His faithfulness, as far as their national history is concerned. They had heard about it and the confidence that it inspires. Then beginning with verse nine he takes a nose dive. Let us look at it.

PSALM 44 - Come to Our Help To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation Of the Sons of Korah.

Psa 44:1 We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:

- **How God has worked in the past. The glorious revivals in the past.** The way of the Spirit of God in the past. We have heard about these things. He is not doubting God's power!

Psa 44:2 You drove out the nations with Your hand, But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out.

- **We heard Lord how our fathers came into possession of the land,** as You went before them driving out the heathen.

Psa 44:3 For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.

- **We have heard about this Lord. It was not by their strength, not by their power but Lord, Your hand** brought them into this place. You favored them.

Psa 44:4 You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob.

- **I have heard about You. Thus,** I make You my King.

Psa 44:5 Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

Psa 44:6 For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me.

Psa 44:7 But You have saved us from our enemies, And have put to shame those who hated us.

Psa 44:8 In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever. Selah

- **It sounds like this guy cannot be defeated. He is on top!** He has heard how God has blessed and thus You are going to be my God and I am going to trust in You and Your deliverance. I am not going to trust in my bow or spear but Lord, I am just going to trust in You because You will deliver. Now David takes a nose dive.

Psa 44:9 But You have cast us off and put us to shame, And You do not go out with our armies.

Psa 44:10 You make us turn back from the enemy, And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.

Psa 44:11 You have given us up like sheep intended for food, And have scattered us among the nations.

- **You are our Shepherd, Lord, but we are like sheep** headed for slaughter!

Psa 44:12 You sell Your people for next to nothing, And are not enriched by selling them.

Psa 44:13 You make us a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and a derision to those all around us.

Psa 44:14 You make us a byword among the nations, A shaking of the head among the peoples.

- **They were going through hard times. They have heard how God had helped them in the past**, how God was with them and gave them the land, driving out the enemies, it was not by their strength it was by the hand of the Lord. We are going to trust You Lord. But Lord, how come? When we placed our trust in You, You have cast us off and put us to shame. You do not go with us as we face our enemies.
- **One of the major problems that we have in our relationship with God** is that I have the concept that because I serve God that God should somehow then be my servant, that by the fact that I am seeking to please God by serving Him that He should do the things that I want done. We think that prayer is a device established by God whereby I can see my will accomplished on this earth.
- **We often get things twisted where we have lost the concept of the sovereignty of God.** God is not under any obligation to fill my will. In fact, in His wisdom, He so often goes against my will. I have in my mind a way I feel God should be working in this situation because I have been thinking over it, I have worried about it, and I have finally figured out a plan. So, I present my plan to God. I am wanting God now to get working on it because I have it all scheduled out for Him.
- **Looking back on a blessed life because God did not give me** the things I thought I needed and wanted so desperately! Now from the vantage of hindsight, as I look back, how I thank God that He said no to a lot of my prayers. I think of the mess that I would be in today had God answered my prayers.
- **The purpose of prayer is not getting my will done, it is getting God's will done!** The purpose of my serving God is not that God might become my servant but that I might be is servant to do those things that He desires. Thus, it is me yielding to God's will and to what he wants rather than insisting that God does what I want! That is where I get into trouble, I start getting insistent. I start demanding and then I start threatening. That has happened too much with me.
- **Making demands to God.** It is like the little Catholic boy who said, "Lord if You will give me that new bicycle I'll put the holy mother up on my nightstand where I come into the bedroom" and he prayed and prayed but no bicycle came. He said, "If You'll just give me a new bicycle I'll pray to the holy mother every night." Still no bicycle. He finally took the statue and held it up like he was going to throw it down and said, "Do You want to see Your mother again?" I think of how I have threatened God and yet my need in learning to trust God.
- **There is no difficulty in trusting God when He is doing things the way I think He ought.** Is that really trust? You see trust really begins when God is working in the way that I do not understand.
- **It would be like us praying about our situation here** in the United States. The abortion issues and all these other issues and we say, "God I do not want to hear anything. I do not want to know anything. It is horrible what is happening and yet You are doing nothing Lord." The Lord says, "Hey I am doing something. I am preparing Russia and they are coming with a nuclear attack. They are going to be coming and wipe this place out." "Lord! They are atheists, You know." That is much the situation that Habakkuk was facing.
- **He said, "I will just go into my tower, and I will wait to see what the Lord will do."** I will watch. The Lord came to Him and said, "*The just shall live by faith.*" So, Habakkuk prayed and said, "Lord I cried to you out of reason of the problems that I saw, and You assured me that You were working. I do not understand what You are doing but Lord just keep doing it." That is trust. You told me that you were working, You told me what You are going to do, I do not understand it, but Lord please just keep working. Keep alive Your work, "revive Your work and in the midst remember mercy." He's saying Lord I do not understand it, but You go ahead and keep doing it but don't forget to be merciful Lord, don't forget mercy.

- **Trust is saying, Lord I know You are working I do not understand what You are doing but You keep doing it.** That is real trust. When You do not understand but saying I do not understand it and I cannot tell you what God's doing but He is working.
- **David could not understand. If God delivered their fathers.** If God brought them into the land and drove out the enemy and we put now our trust in God, why has God allowed the enemy to make a spoil of us? Why has He scattered the people among the heathens? Why has He sold them into slavery? Why are they a reproach to their neighbors, thy byword among the heathen and a shaking of the head of the people? He confesses that he is confused.

Psa 44:15 My dishonor is continually before me, And the shame of my face has covered me,

- **I bow my head in shame,** I am confused, and I cannot understand.

Psa 44:16 Because of the voice of Him who reproaches and reviles, Because of the enemy and the avenger.

Psa 44:17 All this has come upon us; But we have not forgotten You, Nor have we dealt falsely with Your covenant.

Psa 44:18 Our heart has not turned back, Nor have our steps departed from Your way;

Psa 44:19 But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, And covered us with the shadow of death.

Psa 44:20 If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god,

Psa 44:21 Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

- **If we have really done something wrong should not God reveal it to us.** He knows what is going on. He knows the secrets of our hearts.

Psa 44:22 Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

- **Paul picked up this phrase “we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter,”** using it to describe the experiences that the early church was going through. It is interesting the context in which Paul uses it. It is in Romans chapter eight where he is talking the glorious position of the believer in Christ where he asked those questions; *“If God is before us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).*
- **We are more than conquerors!** To be conqueror is to have victory over the enemy. To be a conqueror means to be in control of the circumstances. But to be more than conqueror is different than that. To be more than a conqueror is to say, No matter who wins, I am victorious! To be more than conqueror is to have victory not over the difficulty, but in it. It is to say, not matter what happens, I sense the presence of the Lord with me. Although I might not understand exactly what He is up to, I trust Him because nothing can separate me from His love. He proved that on the Cross of Calvary!
- **He is talking about that glorious place of being so secure in the love of God in Christ** and yet persecution, tribulation, peril *“as it is written for thy sake we are killed all day long, we are counted as sheep for the slaughter” (Romans 8:36).* The Christians went through heavy persecution, they love God. It was because of their love for God that they were persecuted. It was because of their faith in Jesus Christ that they were placed on the racks, that they were fed to the lions and that they were burned at the stake.

Psa 44:23 Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

Psa 44:24 Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression?

Psa 44:25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground.

Psa 44:26 Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

- **An interesting psalm in that it starts out with such confidence and ends in such a dilemma.**
- **God has not promised us a bed of roses in this life. He is promised us the glorious eternal life** with Him in His kingdom. Walking the committed life is not the popular walk. It is not going to make you the “welcome, hail fellow” to the worldly crowd. It is going to be unpopular, and it is going to take real courage to live a committed life for Jesus Christ. You are not going to understand the things that transpire, you must trust and just commit yourself to Him.

SUMMARY:

- **There are other causes for our hardships and afflictions other than our guilt** of our own sin!
- How else is God going to **deepen my faith? Purify my faith? Strengthen my faith?**

- (1Pe 1:7) *that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*
- (Jas 1:2-4) *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, [3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. [4] But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*
- **When we find ourselves in these difficult circumstances, we are not to doubt God's wisdom, His power or His love!**
- **We see both Elijah and John the Baptist both fell prey to being shaken with the apparent inconsistency of the love and the power and the wisdom of God and how it should operate in their lives, having difficulties seeing that God is up to something bigger than I can understand!**
- **It is all about Him and not about us! Into what group of people do difficult trials in our lives tend to put us into contact?**

AWAKE MY SOUL Hillsong (4:40)

Psa 44:23 Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

There is a sound I love to hear It's the sound of the Savior's robe
 As He walks into the room where people pray Where we hear praises He hears faith
 There is a sound I love to hear It's the sound of the Savior's robe
 As He walks into the room where people pray Where we hear worship He hears faith
 Awake my soul and sing Sing His praise aloud
 Sing His praise aloud Awake my soul and sing
 Sing His praise aloud Sing His praise aloud
 There is a sound that changes things The sound of His people on their knees
 Oh, wake up you slumbering It's time to worship Him
 Awake my soul and sing Sing His praise aloud Sing His praise aloud
 Awake my soul and sing Sing His praise aloud Sing His praise aloud
 And when He moves And when we pray Where stood a wall now stands a way
 Where every promise is amen And when He moves Make no mistake
 The bowels of hell begin to shake All hail the Lord all hail the King
 Hey oh Oh let the King of glory enter in Hey oh
 Fall down on your knees and worship Him Hey oh
 Let His praise rise up don't hold it in Awake my soul and sing
 Sing His praise aloud Sing His praise aloud
 Awake my soul and sing Sing His praise aloud Sing His praise aloud

FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -

Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: