

## Why Are You Cast Down, O My Soul (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 42

*For the music director.*

### A maskil of the sons of Korah.

- 1 As a deer longs for streams of water,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for *the* living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night,  
while *they* say to me all day *long*,  
“Where *is* your God?”
- 4 These I remember and I pour out my soul within me:  
that I would go with the multitude;  
I led them *in procession* to the house of God,  
with a voice of rejoicing and thanksgiving,  
a crowd celebrating a festival.
- 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul,  
and disturbed within me?  
Hope in God, because I will again praise him,  
*for* the salvation of his presence.
- 6 O my God, within me my soul is in despair;  
therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan  
and the heights of Hermon, from the mountain of Mizar.
- 7 Deep *is* calling to deep  
at the thunder of your waterfalls.  
All your breakers and your waves  
have passed over me.
- 8 By day Yahweh commands his loyal love,  
and in the night his song *is* with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.
- 9 I say to God, my rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mourning  
because of *the* oppression of *the* enemy?”
- 10 As with a shattering in my bones  
my oppressors taunt me,  
while they say to me all day,  
“Where *is* your God?”
- 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul?  
And why are you disturbed within me?  
Hope in God, because I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.

## Send Out Your Light and Your Truth (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 43

- 1 Judge me, O God, and plead my case  
against an unfaithful nation.  
From a man of deceit and wickedness rescue me,
- 2 because you *are* the God of my refuge.  
Why have you rejected me?  
Why must I go about mourning  
because of *the* oppression of *the* enemy?
- 3 Send your light and your truth;  
they shall lead me.  
They shall bring me to your holy mountain  
and to your dwelling places.
- 4 Then I will go to the altar of God,

to God, my surpassing joy,  
and I will praise you with lyre,  
O God, my God.

- 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul?  
And why are you disturbed within me?  
Hope in God, because I will again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.

## Come to Our Help (c. David/Solomon)

### Psalm 44

*For the music director.*

#### **Of the sons of Korah. A maskil.**

- 1 O God, we have heard with our ears;  
our ancestors have told us  
of work you worked in their days,  
in days of old.
- 2 You *with* your hand drove out the nations,  
but them you planted.  
You harmed *the* peoples,  
but them you let spread out.
- 3 For not with their sword  
did they possess *the* land,  
and their arm did not give them victory.  
Rather *it was* your right hand and your arm  
and the light of your presence,  
because you delighted in them.
- 4 You are my king, O God.  
Command victories for Jacob.
- 5 By you we push down our enemies;  
by your name we tread down those who rise up against us.
- 6 For I do not trust my bow,  
and my sword cannot give me victory.
- 7 Rather you have saved us from our enemies,  
and have humiliated those who hate us.
- 8 In God we boast all the day,  
and we will give thanks *to* your name forever. *Selah*
- 9 Surely you have rejected and disgraced us,  
and have not gone out with our armies.
- 10 You have caused us to pull back from *the* enemy,  
and *so* those who hate us have plundered for themselves.
- 11 You have given us as sheep *for* food,  
and among the nations you have scattered us.
- 12 You have sold your people cheaply,  
and did not profit by their price.
- 13 You have made us a taunt to our neighbors,  
a derision and a scorn to those around us.
- 14 You have made us a byword among the nations,  
a shaking of *the* head among *the* peoples.
- 15 All day long my disgrace *is* before me,  
and the shame of my face covers me,  
16 because of *the* voice of *the* taunter and *the* reviler,  
because of *the* enemy and *the* avenger.
- 17 All this has befallen us, though we have not forgotten you,  
and we have not been false to your covenant.
- 18 Our heart has not turned back,  
and our steps have *not* turned aside from your way.
- 19 But you have crushed us in a place of jackals,

- and have covered us with deep shadow.
- 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God,  
or had spread out our hands *in prayer* to a foreign god,
- 21 would not God discover this,  
for he knows *the secrets of the heart*?
- 22 Rather, on account of you we are killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep for slaughter. [[Rom 8:35–37](#)]
- 23 Wake up! Why do you sleep, O Lord?  
Awake! Do not reject forever.
- 24 Why do you hide your face?  
*Have you forgotten our misery and our oppression?*
- 25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust.  
Our body clings to the ground.
- 26 Rise up! *Be a help* for us,  
and redeem us for the sake of your loyal love.

### Your Throne, O God, Is Forever [Messianic] (c. David/Solomon)

#### Psalm 45

*For the music director; according to The Lilies.*

**Of the sons of Korah. A maskil. A song of love.**

- 1 My heart is moved *with a good word*;  
I recite my compositions to *the king*.  
My tongue *is the pen of a skilled scribe*.
- 2 You are *the most handsome of the sons of humankind*;  
grace is poured out on your lips;  
therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Gird your sword on *your thigh*, O mighty one,  
*in your splendor and your majesty*.
- 4 And *in your majesty ride victoriously*,  
because of truth and humility *and righteousness*.  
And let your right hand teach you awesome deeds.
- 5 Your arrows *are sharp*;  
peoples fall under you  
in the midst of the king's enemies.
- 6 Your throne, O God, *is forever and ever*.  
A scepter of uprightness *is*  
the scepter of your kingdom.
- 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
from among your companions *with festive oil*. [[Heb 1:8–9](#)]
- 8 All your robes *are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia*.  
From palaces of ivory stringed instruments gladden you.
- 9 Kings' daughters *are* among your noble ladies.  
The queen stands at your right hand in gold of Ophir.
- 10 Hear, O daughter, and discern and incline your ear,  
and forget your people and your father's house.
- 11 Let the king desire your beauty.  
Because he *is your lord*, therefore bow down to him.
- 12 Even the daughter of Tyre *will come* with a gift.  
*The rich from among people will seek your favor*.
- 13 The king's daughter is all glorious within;  
her garment *is of gold embroidered cloth*.
- 14 She is brought to the king *in colorful garments*.  
*The young women behind her, her attendants,*  
*are being brought to you*.
- 15 They are led with joy and gladness.  
They enter *the palace of the king*.

- 16 In place of your fathers will be your sons.  
You will make them princes in all the land.
- 17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;  
therefore peoples will praise you forever and ever.

### God Is Our Fortress (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 46

*For the music director.*

**Of the sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A song.**

- 1 God *is* our refuge and strength,  
a very sufficient help in troubles.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though *the* earth change,  
and though the mountains totter into *the* midst of *the* sea,
- 3 though its waters roar *and* foam,  
though mountains shake with its surging *water*. *Selah*
- 4 *There is* a river whose streams gladden the city of God,  
the holiest of the dwellings of the Most High.
- 5 God *is* in the midst of her;  
she will not be made to totter.  
God will help her at daybreak.
- 6 Nations roar, kingdoms shake;  
he utters his voice, *the* earth melts.
- 7 Yahweh of hosts *is* with us;  
our *high* stronghold *is* the God of Jacob. *Selah*
- 8 Come, see the works of Yahweh,  
who has placed desolations on the earth.
- 9 *He* makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;  
he breaks *the* bow and cuts off *the* spear.  
*The* wagons of war he burns with fire.
- 10 Be still, and know that I *am* God.  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 Yahweh of Hosts *is* with us;  
the God of Jacob *is* our *high* stronghold. *Selah*

### God Is King over All the Earth (c. David/Solomon)

Psalm 47

*For the music director.*

**Of the sons of Korah. A psalm.**

- 1 All *you* peoples, clap *your* hands.  
Shout to God with a voice of rejoicing.
- 2 For Yahweh Most High *is* awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues peoples under us  
and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses for us our inheritance,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,  
Yahweh with *the* sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises *to* God, sing praises.  
Sing praises to our king, sing praises.
- 7 For God *is* king of all the earth.  
Sing praises with understanding.
- 8 God reigns over nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 *The* princes of *the* peoples are gathered together

*with the people of Abraham's God.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God.  
He is very exalted.*

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### **Chronological Notes**

- 1) The Psalter contains eleven psalms written by the “sons of Korah”—ten psalms are directly attributed to them (42, 44–49, 84, 85, 87), and Psalm 43 is closely connected to Psalm 42 (compare 42:11 with 43:5). This Levitical family was descended from the rebel leader of that name, whose children were spared—to our great gain—when he died for his rebellion (Num 26:10ff.). One part of this family became the temple doorkeepers and guardians (1 Chr 9:17ff.; cf. Ps 84:10?), and another part the singers and musicians of the temple choir founded under David by Heman, whose fellow-Levites Asaph and Jeduthun (or Ethan) directed the choirs drawn from the other two clans of that tribe (1 Chr 6:31, 33, 39, 44).<sup>1</sup> I have dated these psalms as “c. David/Solomon” to indicate that they were likely written during the reign of David or Solomon.

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<sup>1</sup> Derek J. Kidner, “Psalms 1–72,” *TOTC*, 49