

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

Psalm 42

*For the music director;*

**A well-written song by the Korahites.**

- 1 As a deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God!
- 2 I thirst for God,  
for the living God.  
I say, "When will I be able to go and appear in God's presence?"
- 3 I cannot eat, I weep day and night;  
all day long they say to me, "Where is your God?"
- 4 I will remember and weep!  
For I was once walking along with the great throng to the temple of God,  
shouting and giving thanks along with the crowd as we celebrated the holy festival.
- 5 Why are you depressed, O my soul?  
Why are you upset?  
Wait for God!  
For I will again give thanks  
to my God for his saving intervention.
- 6 I am depressed,  
so I will pray to you while I am trapped here in the region of the upper Jordan,  
from Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
- 7 One deep stream calls out to another at the sound of your waterfalls;  
all your billows and waves overwhelm me.
- 8 By day the LORD decrees his loyal love,  
and by night he gives me a song,  
a prayer to the living God.
- 9 I will pray to God, my high ridge:  
"Why do you ignore me?  
Why must I walk around mourning  
because my enemies oppress me?"
- 10 My enemies' taunts cut into me to the bone,  
as they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
- 11 Why are you depressed, O my soul?  
Why are you upset?  
Wait for God!  
For I will again give thanks  
to my God for his saving intervention.

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

Psalm 43

- 1 Vindicate me, O God!  
Fight for me against an ungodly nation!  
Deliver me from deceitful and evil men!
- 2 For you are the God who shelters me.  
Why do you reject me?  
Why must I walk around mourning  
because my enemies oppress me?
- 3 Reveal your light and your faithfulness!  
They will lead me,  
they will escort me back to your holy hill,  
and to the place where you live.
- 4 Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to the God who gives me ecstatic joy,  
so that I express my thanks to you, O God, my God, with a harp.
- 5 Why are you depressed, O my soul?  
Why are you upset?

Wait for God!  
For I will again give thanks  
to my God for his saving intervention.

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

Psalm 44

*For the music director;*

**By the Korahites, a well-written song.**

- 1 O God, we have clearly heard;  
our ancestors have told us  
what you did in their days,  
in ancient times.
- 2 You, by your power, defeated nations and settled our fathers on their land;  
you crushed the people living there and enabled our ancestors to occupy it.
- 3 For they did not conquer the land by their swords,  
and they did not prevail by their strength,  
but rather by your power, strength and good favor,  
for you were partial to them.
- 4 You are my king, O God!  
Decree Jacob's deliverance!
- 5 By your power we will drive back our enemies;  
by your strength we will trample down our foes!
- 6 For I do not trust in my bow,  
and I do not prevail by my sword.
- 7 For you deliver us from our enemies;  
you humiliate those who hate us.
- 8 In God I boast all day long,  
and we will continually give thanks to your name. (Selah)
- 9 But you rejected and embarrassed us!  
You did not go into battle with our armies.
- 10 You made us retreat from the enemy.  
Those who hate us take whatever they want from us.
- 11 You handed us over like sheep to be eaten;  
you scattered us among the nations.
- 12 You sold your people for a pittance;  
you did not ask a high price for them.
- 13 You made us an object of disdain to our neighbors;  
those who live on our borders taunt and insult us.
- 14 You made us an object of ridicule among the nations;  
foreigners treat us with contempt.
- 15 All day long I feel humiliated  
and am overwhelmed with shame,  
16 before the vindictive enemy  
who ridicules and insults me.
- 17 All this has happened to us, even though we have not rejected you  
or violated your covenant with us.
- 18 We have not been unfaithful,  
nor have we disobeyed your commands.
- 19 Yet you have battered us, leaving us a heap of ruins overrun by wild dogs;  
you have covered us with darkness.
- 20 If we had rejected our God,  
and spread out our hands in prayer to another god,  
21 would not God discover it,  
for he knows one's thoughts?
- 22 Yet because of you we are killed all day long;  
we are treated like sheep at the slaughtering block. [[Rom 8:35–37](#)]
- 23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord?

- Wake up! Do not reject us forever!
- 24 Why do you look the other way,  
and ignore the way we are oppressed and mistreated?
- 25 For we lie in the dirt,  
with our bellies pressed to the ground.
- 26 Rise up and help us!  
Rescue us because of your loyal love!

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

Psalm 45

*For the music director; according to the tune of "Lilies;"*

**By the Korahites, a well-written poem, a love song.**

- 1 My heart is stirred by a beautiful song.  
I say, "I have composed this special song for the king;  
my tongue is as skilled as the stylus of an experienced scribe."
- 2 You are the most handsome of all men!  
You speak in an impressive and fitting manner!  
For this reason God grants you continual blessings.
- 3 Strap your sword to your thigh, O warrior!  
Appear in your majestic splendor!
- 4 Appear in your majesty and be victorious!  
Ride forth for the sake of what is right,  
on behalf of justice!  
Then your right hand will accomplish mighty acts!
- 5 Your arrows are sharp  
and penetrate the hearts of the king's enemies.  
Nations fall at your feet.
- 6 Your throne, O God, is permanent.  
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.
- 7 You love justice and hate evil.  
For this reason God, your God has anointed you  
with the oil of joy, elevating you above your companions. [[Heb 1:8-9](#)]
- 8 All your garments are perfumed with myrrh, aloes, and cassia.  
From the luxurious palaces comes the music of stringed instruments that makes you happy.
- 9 Princesses are among your honored guests,  
your bride stands at your right hand, wearing jewelry made with gold from Ophir.
- 10 Listen, O princess!  
Observe and pay attention!  
Forget your homeland and your family!
- 11 Then the king will be attracted by your beauty.  
After all, he is your master! Submit to him!
- 12 Rich people from Tyre  
will seek your favor by bringing a gift.
- 13 The princess looks absolutely magnificent,  
decked out in pearls and clothed in a brocade trimmed with gold.
- 14 In embroidered robes she is escorted to the king.  
Her attendants, the maidens of honor who follow her,  
are led before you.
- 15 They are bubbling with joy as they walk in procession  
and enter the royal palace.
- 16 Your sons will carry on the dynasty of your ancestors;  
you will make them princes throughout the land.
- 17 I will proclaim your greatness through the coming years,  
then the nations will praise you forever.

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

Psalm 46

*For the music director;*

**By the Korahites; according to the alamoth style; a song.**

- 1 God is our strong refuge;  
he is truly our helper in times of trouble.
- 2 For this reason we do not fear when the earth shakes,  
and the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea,  
3 when its waves crash and foam,  
and the mountains shake before the surging sea. (Selah)
- 4 The river's channels bring joy to the city of God,  
the special, holy dwelling place of the sovereign One.
- 5 God lives within it, it cannot be moved.  
God rescues it at the break of dawn.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms are overthrown.  
God gives a shout, the earth dissolves.
- 7 The LORD who commands armies is on our side!  
The God of Jacob is our protector! (Selah)
- 8 Come! Witness the exploits of the LORD,  
who brings devastation to the earth!
- 9 He brings an end to wars throughout the earth;  
he shatters the bow and breaks the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, "Stop your striving and recognize that I am God!  
I will be exalted over the nations! I will be exalted over the earth!"
- 11 The LORD who commands armies is on our side!  
The God of Jacob is our protector! (Selah)

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

Psalm 47

*For the music director;*

**By the Korahites; a psalm.**

- 1 All you nations, clap your hands!  
Shout out to God in celebration!
- 2 For the sovereign LORD is awe-inspiring;  
he is the great king who rules the whole earth!
- 3 He subdued nations beneath us  
and countries under our feet.
- 4 He picked out for us a special land  
to be a source of pride for Jacob, whom he loves. (Selah)
- 5 God has ascended his throne amid loud shouts;  
the LORD has ascended his throne amid the blaring of ram's horns.
- 6 Sing to God! Sing!  
Sing to our king! Sing!
- 7 For God is king of the whole earth!  
Sing a well-written song!
- 8 God reigns over the nations!  
God sits on his holy throne!
- 9 The nobles of the nations assemble,  
along with the people of the God of Abraham,  
for God has authority over the rulers of the earth.  
He is highly exalted!

**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