

Sunday Night Message

September 29, 2013

Psalm 42 - 43

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 42 and 43

Introduction

We will take Psalms 42 and 43 together, as they seem to go together. Notice vs. 42:5, 11; 43:5.

"To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah.

A “maschil” is a song or poem. We have seen this word once before in Psalm 32.

For the sons of Korah – Korah was the one who led a rebellion against Moses, and was actually put to death by God in Numbers 16. His sons were not put to death, however, and were made worship leaders in the tabernacle. (1 Chronicles 9:19; 26:1 – 19). We will see this name in the introductory material in many future psalms.

This is known as Book II in the Psalms. There are some that believe that this new section in the psalms speaks of Israel symbolically as she goes through the tribulation period in the future.

An interesting fact about this new section beginning in Psalm 42 is the name Elohim is used far more often for God than the word, Jehovah. Here in Psalm 42 Jehovah is only used once (v. 8), where El or Elohim is used 20 times. Jehovah is the name for the Supreme God, literally meaning “the existent one”.

This psalm appears to have been written by a man who was living in exile outside of the city of Jerusalem. He had been able in the past to travel into Jerusalem to worship the Lord, but now he was unable to go, and he felt that the Lord had abandoned him (v. 9). (Notice the geography mentioned in v. 6 – Mt. Hermon was way north of the Sea of Galilee, and outside of the borders of Israel.) The Israelites were expected to appear before the Lord at least three times during the year (Exodus 23:14 – 17)

I Longing for God's Presence (vs. 1 -

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." (Psalms 42:1)

"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalms 42:2)

David had a similar experience.

"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" (Psalms 63:1)

Jesus said:

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

If these psalms do speak symbolically about Israel in the Tribulation Period, then these verses would certainly fit. Israel will be away from God, but will be longing for Him.

"My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?" (Psalms 42:3)

Notice that this phrase is the phrase that all skeptics use when they see believers struggling. This psalmist was living in a strange land in front of lost people.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" (Joel 2:15-17)

When Christians get disheartened it waves a banner to the lost people around us. We look defeated, and even though we know we have victory in Christ, the lost world around us cannot see it. Your countenance reveals your faith in God's victory.

"When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday." (Psalms 42:4)

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." (Psalms 42:5)

II Looking Back to God in Remembrance (vs. 6 - 11)

"O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar." (Psalms 42:6)

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." (Psalms 42:7)

"Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." (Psalms 42:8)

"I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" (Psalms 42:9)

"As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?" (Psalms 42:10)

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." (Psalms 42:11)

III Looking To God for Deliverance (3:1 - 5)

"Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man." (Psalms 43:1)

"For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" (Psalms 43:2)

"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." (Psalms 43:3)

"Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God." (Psalms 43:4)

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." (Psalms 43:5)