

## Sunday Night Message

October 20, 2013

*Psalm 44*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 44

### **Introduction**

This psalm, like the two before it is a “maschil”, which is song or poem for contemplation. It was written for the sons of Korah. The sons of Korah were ministers in the House of God. Korah was a man from the family of the Kohathites that lead a rebellion against Moses (Numbers 16).

This psalm records something that is very rare in the psalms: Israel is suffering bitterly at the hands of an unknown enemy. Most of the time when we see Israel suffering defeat, it is because of a sin, or sinful condition within the camp. (i.e. Ai – Joshua 7, and when David numbered the people 2 Samuel 24) Here, however there does not appear to be a root cause. It seems that God is allowing his people to suffer through no fault of their own, and for no apparent reason. Sometimes, God knows that it is best to allow His children to suffer.

This psalm bears a striking resemblance to Psalm 60, which leads us to believe that the enemy may have been the Edomites.

### **I God’s Presence (vs. 1 – 8) - You have helped us**

v. 1 - “our father’s have told us” – the Israelites were commanded by God to tell their children of the great victories that God had wrought for them in the past. (Deuteronomy 6:1 - 25; Exodus 12:26 - 27)

### **II God’s Absence (vs. 9 – 16) You are not helping us**

Israel seemed to always have a hidden ally that helped them achieve the victory (Joshua 5:13 – 15), but now the people of God had no help. When this happened to them in the past it was usually because they had forsaken God, but it seemed that there was no specific cause for God’s absence. God’s enemies were rejoicing at the demise of His people. (See also Psalm 74:10, 18, 22; 79:4, 12)

Note – Paul quoted v. 11 in Romans 8:36.

Why would God allow this?

Illustration – Why would God allow Jim Elliot and Nate Saint, along with three other missionaries to be slaughtered by the Auca Indians of Ecuador?

Why would God allow a young, promising deacon like Stephen to be slaughtered by the religious mob in Jerusalem?

Somehow, God would be glorified in both their suffering, and in their death.

The Bible says, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” (Psalm 116:15)

The Bible says that there is no greater love than for somebody to lay down his life for a friend. Maybe God just wants to give his saints an opportunity to demonstrate their love for Him.

**III The People’s Dependence (vs. 17 – 22) Please help us**

**IV The People’s Assurance (vs. 23 – 26) You will help us**

Like Job, we should be able to say, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

Romans 8:28

Romans 8:37