

PSALMS 42-49

Introduction & Overview

- The Psalms point toward Jesus (Lk. 24:44), so...
 - The Psalms must be read not only individually but also in harmony together.
 - The Psalms must be read in harmony with the whole of the Scriptures.
- Such a reading will call us to greater praise and trust in God.

Psalms 42 & 43

- This is a three-stanza hymn (chorus in 42:5, 11; & 43:5).
 - 42:1-5--My soul thirsts for the presence of God.
 - 42:6-11--My soul is cast down because of my oppressors.
 - 43:1-5--So I will call on God to bring me back to His holy hill.
- Psalms 42-49 form a unit, written by the sons of Korah, in the Psalms.

Psalm 44

- Psalm 44 shifts from individual (42/43) to collective (44).
 - 44:1-8--God offered salvation for Israel.
 - 44:9-22--Yet God has forgotten the current generation.
 - 44:23-26--So arise to action, O God!
- Ps. 44:25 echoes the chorus of 42:5, 11 & 43:5.

Psalm 45

- Psalm 45 begins the resolution to the dilemmas of Psalm 42-44: the marriage of the King to the foreign daughter.
- Written perhaps with the story of Solomon in mind, this Psalm finds its true fulfillment in the marriage of Jesus the King to His saints (Lk. 4:19-22; Rev. 1:16 & 19:15).
- Psalm 45 offers hope to the despair of Ps. 42-44 by transforming rejection (42:5) to desire (45:11); forgottenness (42:9) to remembrance (45:17); a separated house (42:4) to a thriving household (45:16); oppression (42:3) to praise (45:17); removal from the temple (42:4) to entrance to the palace (45:15); & abandonment (42:4) to union in marriage (45:15).

Psalm 46

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the tone of Psalm 46? How does it compare to 42-45?
2. What is happening in verses 2-3?
3. How do verses 4-7 relate back to Psalm 42?
4. What call to action is given in verses 8-11?

Connecting Questions

5. How is Psalm 46 a continuation of the narrative from Psalm 45?
6. How does Revelation draw from the imagery of v. 2-3 (Rev. 6:14-16; 8:8; 16:20; etc.)?
7. How do v. 2-3 harken back to the refrain of Ps. 42 & 43?
8. What river is described in v. 4 (cf. Rev. 22:1-2; Eze. 47)?
9. How is verse 10 an answer to the refrain of Ps. 42 & 43?
10. How can we apply Psalm 46 to our prayers?