

Psalm 44 An instruction of the sons of Korah

The works God did in the past

¹ LORD God,

Our fathers taught us about the great works You did when You brought Israel out of Egypt and planted them in the promised land. ²⁻³ We understand that it was by Your power that the people of Canaan were driven out so that Israel could take possession of the land. You caused great harm to the people of Canaan, and then You planted Israel in their place. Then You caused the people of Israel to spread out and fill the land. We understand that Israel wasn't victorious over the people of Canaan simply because they were skilled and brave soldiers. No, it was the fact that You favored Israel and cleared the way for them. Without Your help and blessing their attempts to take the land would have been an utter failure.

The works we would like God to do today

⁴ LORD, we understand how You helped Israel back then, but we need Your help now. Please decree that You will bring about victory for us over our foes. ⁵ In Your name we will push back our enemies, and we will trample them into the ground. ⁶ Please help us because I will not trust in my rifle or handgun to bring about victory. You are the one who will do it. ⁷ I will trust You because You have saved us from our hateful enemies in the past and put them to shame. Please do the same for us today. ⁸ If You do, we will brag about You all day long, and we will thank and praise You forever.

Now, stop what you are doing, and ponder the great works of God. Then consider the blessing and security that come when He does the fighting for you.

The troubles Israel was experiencing

⁹ In spite of all You have done in the past, You have rejected us now. You cover us with shame and disgrace, and You do not go out with our armies. ¹⁰ As a result, You cause us to turn and run from the enemy in battle so that those who hate us are free to plunder our possessions. ¹¹ You have destined us to be slaughtered, and You have scattered us among many nations. ¹² You sell Your people cheaply as though they were of no value, and You gain nothing from the exchange. ¹³ You have allowed our captors to mock us, to scoff at us, and to treat us with disrespect. ¹⁴ We are a laughingstock, and they use the name of Israel like a dirty word. ¹⁵ All day, every day, I am overwhelmed by the disgrace I receive ¹⁶ from our captors who put me down and tell me how worthless I am.

Although we faithfully serve the LORD, we are doomed anyway

¹⁷ All of this has happened to us even though we have not forgotten You nor tried to circumvent Your covenant. ¹⁸ We have not turned our back on You, and we have not wandered off the path of obedience to You. ¹⁹ In spite of all of this, You have crushed us and put us in a place where only wild animals can survive. There You have filled us with the fear that we could die any day now. ²⁰⁻²¹ If we had abandoned the LORD or worshipped false gods You would certainly know it. Surely You would because You know every secret of every person in the world. ²² Regardless of what You know, for Your sake we are killed one after another day after day. We are simply considered as sheep destined for the slaughter.

A final plea for the LORD to rescue them

²³ LORD, please wake up and do something special for us. Please don't reject us forever. ²⁴ We are trying our best to serve You, so why do You hide Your face from us and overlook the troubles and oppression we are experiencing? ²⁵ We have been knocked down as far as we can go, and we are all but dead men. ²⁶ Please, please, get up and help us. Buy us back in keeping with Your tender love and kindness. Please help us!

JLSParaphrase Copyright © 2020 by Jerry L. Simms
Email comments to proverbsguy@gmail.com
See our website at www.jlsparaphrase.org