

**But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence,
For You favored them.**

44:4 You are my King, O God;
Command victories for Jacob.

44:5 Through You we will push back our adversaries;
Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us.

44:6 For I will not trust in my bow,
Nor will my sword save me.



44:7 But You have saved us from our adversaries,
And You have put to shame those who hate us.

44:8 In God we have boasted all day long,
And we will give thanks to Your name forever.

Selah.

44:9 Yet You have rejected *us* and brought us to dishonor,
And do not go out with our armies.

44:10 You cause us to turn back from the adversary;
And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.

44:11 You give us as sheep to be eaten
And have scattered us among the nations.

44:12 You sell Your people cheaply,
And have not profited by their sale.

44:13 You make us a reproach to our neighbors,
A scoffing and a derision to those around us.

44:14 You make us a byword among the nations,
A laughingstock among the peoples.

44:15 All day long my dishonor is before me
And my humiliation has overwhelmed me,

44:16 Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles,
Because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.

44:17 All this has come upon us,
but we have not forgotten You,
And we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant.

44:18 Our heart has not turned back,
And our steps have not deviated from Your way,

44:19 Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals
And covered us with the shadow of death.

44:20 If we had forgotten the name of our God
Or extended our hands to a strange god,

44:21 Would not God find this out?
For He knows the secrets of the heart.

44:22 But for Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

44:23 Arouse Yourself, **why do You sleep, O Lord?**

Awake, do not reject us forever.

44:24 **Why do You hide Your face**

And forget our affliction and our oppression?

44:25 For our soul has sunk down into the dust;

Our body cleaves to the earth.

44:26 Rise up, be our help,

And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.

For the choir director; according to the Shoshannim.

2.0 Understanding Psalm 44

2.1 Outline

- I. Description of God's Past Work (vv. 1-3)
- II. Declaration of Confidence (vv. 4-8)
- III. Disgrace of Present Suffering (vv. 9-16)
- IV. Declaration of Innocence (vv. 17-22)
- V. Development of Petition (vv. 23-26)



2.2 Notes

- **vv. 1-3** The Past Work of God
 - Specific reference is to the conquest of Canaan.
 - Joshua 6 — the fall of Jericho.
 - Compare Deuteronomy 4:37-38; 7:7-8; 9:4-6.
- **v. 3** “Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence”
 - These metaphors refer to God's power and grace.
 - For “light of Your presence,” see Psalms 4:6; 89:15.
- **vv. 4-8** Declaration of Trust/Confidence
 - This confidence is both personal (vv. 4 and 6) and corporate (vv. 5 and 7-8).
 - Such faith is the result of the knowledge of God's past deeds for His people.
- **v. 4** “You are my King, O God”
 - Emphatic: “You alone are my King.”
 - Compare Psalms 10:16 and 29:10.
 - An individual king expresses his faith in his Sovereign God.
- **vv. 8, 9** “Selah. Yet . . .”
 - For the meaning of “Selah,” see notes on Psalms 3 and 9:16.

- “Selah” ends the first major section of the psalm and “Yet” commences the second major section.
- “Yet” (“And now” in some translations) introduces a contrast to the preceding verses.
- **vv. 9-16** The Present Disgrace
 - Note the repeated references to God (“You”/“Your”). He is in control and has done or allowed these devastating events to occur.
- **v. 11** “scattered among the nations”
 - See Leviticus 26:33 and Deuteronomy 28:37, 64.
- **vv. 17-22** Protest of Innocence
 - The people do not claim sinless perfection.
 - Their claim is to loyalty to their covenant relationship with God.
- **v. 17** “dealt falsely with Your covenant”
 - This phraseology is the opposite of Psalm 89:33 (“deal falsely in My faithfulness”).
- **v. 19** “a place of jackals”
 - The picture is either of the wilderness or of ruins taken over by wild animals.
- **v. 19** “the shadow of death”
 - The psalmists use deep or dense darkness to depict desperate or threatening circumstances.
 - Compare Psalm 23:4.
- **v. 22** “for Your sake we are killed all day long”
 - This is the key to understanding the solution to Israel’s plight.
 - Confirmation that God’s people can suffer innocently.
 - Compare Job 13:15 and Romans 8:35-37.
- **v. 23** “Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord?”
 - See Psalm 13:1.
 - Compare Mark 4:35-41.
- **v. 26** “redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness”
 - “[T]he love of God is of such quality that even the terrible defeats of the present moment are not without a purpose and will not, even in the worst extremity, sever the believing one from God.” — James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms*, 3 vols. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1996), 2:378.



- “The last hope of a faithful people is the faithfulness of God.” — James Luther Mays, *Psalms*, Interpretation (Louisville, Ky.: John Knox Press, 1994), 178.
- Compare 2 Timothy 2:13 and Romans 8:38-39.
- v. 26 [45:1] “Shoshannim”
 - Psalms 45:1; 69:1; and 80:1.
 - “Shoshannim” = “Lilies” — probably a reference to a tune or melody to which the psalm was to be sung.

3.0 Singing Psalm 44

Thou Art the Mighty King of Kings (Tune: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”)



Thou art the mighty King of kings,
The Lord of lords most high:
Israel is safe beneath Thy wings;
Thy servant shall not die.
Through Thee we shall the victory gain,
Though hosts of hell oppose:
Thou art our God; and Thou wilt reign,
And conquer all our foes.

We trust not in our bow or sword;
For weakness is our pow’r:
In Thee we trust, Almighty Lord,
Through every dangerous hour,
To Thee we look, Thou God of love,
Thy holy Name adore:
Oh, may we rise to Heav’n above,
To love and praise Thee more.

— Words: Joseph Proud (1745-1826)
Music: “Ellacombe” (1784, German)

4.0 Praying Psalm 44

- Thank You, Father, for saving us—we did not save ourselves. [v. 3]
- You are my King, O God. I will obey and serve You. [v. 4]
- Examine my heart, because You know its secrets. [v. 21]
- Lord, teach me how to suffer for Your sake. [v. 22]
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5.0 Applying Psalm 44

- Only God is the Author and Finisher of our salvation.
- God's people may at times suffer for His sake alone.
- God remains faithful in His love for us.