



PSALM 43

Send Your Light and Your Truth

Introducing Psalm 43

- ▶ Psalms 42 and 43 are often considered together.
- ▶ See notes on Psalm 42.
- ▶ Note that the refrain found twice in Psalm 42 (vv. 5, 11) is found here in Psalm 43 (v. 5).

Praying Psalm 43



- ▶ **Lord, defend me from my enemies. [v. 1]**
- ▶ **My strength is in You, Father. [v. 2]**
- ▶ **Thank You for redeeming me and being faithful to me. [v. 3]**
- ▶ **My desire is to be with You, O God. [v. 4]**

Understanding Psalms 42–43

- I. The Psalmist's Introspection (42:1–5)
- II. The Psalmist's Retrospection (42:6–11)
- III. The Psalmist's Vindication (43:1–5)



Understanding Psalm 43

- v. 1** – “Vindicate me”: Faze-me justiça
- ▶ God alone can vindicate the psalmist.
 - ▶ God has the authority to defend the psalmist and to prosecute the enemy.
- 

Understanding Psalm 43

v. 1 – “an ungodly nation”: a nação ímpia

- ▶ Enemies of the psalmist and of his nation have made life unbearable and depressing.
- ▶ If this is a hymn penned during Judah’s exile, the reference would be to all that the Israelites suffered at the hands of the Babylonians.

Understanding Psalm 43

v. 3 – “Your light and Your truth”: a tua luz e a tua verdade

- ▶ “The light of God is the experience of the fullness of his redemption (36:9; Isa 58:8, 10; 60:1, 3). The ‘truth’ . . . of God is the expression of his covenant fidelity (40:10; 57:3).”

— Willem A. VanGemeren

Understanding Psalm 43

vv. 3-4 – “Let them bring me to Your holy hill . . .”: me levem ao teu santo monte

- ▶ Is this a return from exile?
- ▶ Or, leaving this earth in death?

Understanding Psalm 43

vv. 3-4 – “Let them bring me
to Your holy hill ...” .”: me levem ao teu santo
monte

▶ **Note the movement:**

- Mt. Zion (“to Your holy hill”: ao teu santo monte, v. 3a).
- The Temple (“to Your dwelling places”: aos teus tabernáculos, v. 3b).
- The altar in the Temple (“to the altar of God”: ao altar de Deus, v. 4a).
- God Himself (“To God my exceeding joy”: a Deus, que é a minha grande alegria, v. 4b).

Understanding Psalm 43

v. 5 – “The help of my countenance and my God”: a salvação da minha face e Deus meu

- ▶ This 3rd stanza, added to the first two (in Psalm 42), expresses a prayer of strong conviction.
- ▶ God is the psalmist’s help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Cheguemos, pois, com confiança
ao trono da graça,
para que possamos alcançar
misericórdia e achar graça,
a fim de sermos ajudados
em tempo oportuno.

Preaching/Teaching Psalm 43

- ▶ **Salvation (“Your light”) and God’s own faithfulness (“Your truth”) lead us on life’s journey.**
 - ▶ **Our ultimate desire and goal should be the presence of God.**
- 