

Psalm 42

For the director of music.

A maskil of the Sons of Korah.

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,
while men say to me all day long,

"Where is your God?"

Psalm 42

4 These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go with the multitude,
leading the procession to the house of God,
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving
among the festive throng.

Psalm 42

5 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42

6 My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

Psalm 42

8 By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"

10 My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Psalm 42

11 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Psalm 43

1 Vindicate me, O God,
and plead my cause against an ungodly nation;
rescue me from deceitful and wicked men.

2 You are God my stronghold.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?

Psalm 43

3 Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide me;
let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.

4 Then will I go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight.

I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

Psalm 43

5 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Many voices, one Voice...

3 ways to look at the psalm

- What use is the Psalm to us? First impressions...
 - I. Time and place, background of the psalm and author;
message to the original recipients
 - II. Foreshadowing & prophecy - Deeper meanings...
 - III. Decoding the text ... what is central? Meaning for us!

I. First impressions...

- A Maskil, an artful, crafty song – a well thought through composition
- Deer panting for water, yet streams of water
- Longing for past happiness
- Korachites; leading the procession to the house of God

The area in Israel

Background of the psalm and author

- **Place: Hermon, north Israel, source of the Jordan**
- **Time: after the division of Juda and Israel**
- **Author: a Korachite, son of Korah, son of Aaron.**

Levite (priest) with musical duties.

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- From Hermon to the lake of Galilee

Many voices, one Voice...

Background of the psalm and author

- Place: Hermon, north Israel, source of the Jordan
- History
 - How did his ancestors arrive here?
 - Time: after the division of Juda and Israel

Israel

Dan

Hermion

Place of settlement

Inheritance



Israel and Juda in
the age of the
author of this
psalm

Jerusalem and temple



Why did the author live in that place among ungodly men?

- Dan did not take its inheritance: too little effort or too little help from the other tribes – mistakes of the forefathers
- Because the division between Juda and Israel - mistakes of his contemporaries
- Because he himself had - not yet - left...

How did he get in a this situation?

- Mistakes of forefathers
- Mistakes of contemporaries
- He had not - yet – stepped out of the situation

II. Prophecy - A similar situation?

- Thirst
- Surrounded by enemies
- Where is your God?
- My bones suffer mortal agony...
- God-forsaken...

A similar situation?

- Chorus: Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.
- God my Saviour = Yeshuah
- Yeshuah, the original Hebrew name of Jesus
- Jesus experienced it all on the Cross, we can trust Him as our Saviour too...

III. The meaning for us...

1. We also could not, and still cannot, fully gather for worship
2. What can we learn from this worshipleader?
3. What is the central message for us... the core message?

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2. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
3. My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
4. These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.
5. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.
6. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
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12. Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; rescue me from deceitful and wicked men.
13. You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?
14. Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.
15. Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.
16. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

The core, the centre...

By day the LORD directs his love,

at night his song is with me

a prayer to the God of my life.

The core, the centre...

By day the LORD directs his love,

at night his song (is with me)

a prayer to the God of my life.

(or: the living God, El Chai)



One Voice

- St. Augustine: the internal instigation of the Holy Spirit
- John Calvin: internal witness (or testimony) of the Holy Spirit

Similar texts, in the Psalms:

- 16:7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- 27:8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, I will seek.
- Ps 40: I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry...
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.

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- Song: Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call is a lament from Psalm 42. Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYGhnbXtqbU>