

Psalm 44

¹ We have heard it with our ears, O God;
our ancestors have told us
what you did in their days,
in days long ago.

² With your hand you drove out the na-
tions
and planted our ancestors;
you crushed the peoples
and made our ancestors flourish.

³ It was not by their sword that they won
the land,
nor did their arm bring them victory;
it was your right hand, your arm,
and the light of your face, for you
loved them.

⁴ You are my King and my God,
who decrees victories for Jacob.

⁵ **Through you** we push back our enemies;
through your name we trample our
foes.

⁶ I put no trust in my bow,
my sword does not bring me victory;

⁷ but you give us victory over our ene-
mies,
you put our adversaries to shame.

⁸ In God we make our boast all day long,
and we will praise your name forever.

⁹ But now you have rejected and humbled
us;

you no longer go out with our armies.

¹⁰ You made us retreat before the enemy,
and our adversaries have plundered
us.

¹¹ You gave us up to be devoured like
sheep
and have scattered us among the na-
tions.

¹² You sold your people for a pittance,
gaining nothing from their sale.

**This is what you have done for us in the
past.**

All glory was God's not of our own doing.

Jacob = Israel

**We put all of our trust in God. He is our
King. (Yet by the time of this Psalm there
have been many kings, starting with Saul)**

**That was in the past... let's talk about the
present.**

**Our faith doesn't seem to be in harmony
with the facts of today.**

**Nation has been dismantled, its people
scattered. What did anyone gain by this?**

¹³ You have made us a reproach to our neighbors,
the scorn and derision of those around us.
¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the nations;
the peoples shake their heads at us.
¹⁵ I live in disgrace all day long,
and my face is covered with shame
¹⁶ at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me,
because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.

¹⁷ All this came upon us,
though we had not forgotten you;
we had not been false to your covenant.
¹⁸ Our hearts had not turned back;
our feet had not strayed from your path.
¹⁹ But you crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals;
you covered us over with deep darkness.

²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
²¹ would not God have discovered it,
since he knows the secrets of the heart?
²² **Yet for your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.**

²³ Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.
²⁴ Why do you hide your face
and forget our misery and oppression?

²⁵ We are brought down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
²⁶ Rise up and help us;
rescue us because of your unfailing love.

Look at us! We are the laughingstock of the world.

We are suffering from shame.

“The argument of the psalmist is that if to God belongs the glory for victory, to him also belongs the shame of defeat.”

What did we do wrong?

We don't deserve this.

Think about Job: Was he being punished?

Verse 22 - Paul quotes this. Why?

What is the cost of discipleship?

God must have fallen asleep!

Do we feel like sometimes God is asleep or not paying attention?