

The God of Hope

Psalms 42

I. A Desperate Longing

Psalms 42:1-7

A. A Longing for God

Psalms 42:1-2

Because of his inability to be in the Temple of the Lord, He felt that He was also far from God. It is not that he does not believe that God is everywhere, or that God is not with him. After all, he is praying to God in this Psalm.

B. A Longing for Peace

We also see there was an intense longing for peace.

Psalms 42:3,4,10

We find that the Psalmist was also taunted by unbelievers. The scoff as they ask him, “Where is your God?” You can sense that this was painful for him, as he was dealing with being separated from the Temple, then to have unbelievers challenge their faith, He longed to experience once again the Peace of God. The Peace that Passes all understanding!

In ancient times, almost no one was a true atheist. The first real atheist came with Greek philosophy. So the taunt was not implying that God did not exist, but that God had abandoned him. “Where is your God when you need him? Where is your God now?”

C. A Longing for Rest

Psalms 42:7,9

We long for rest from the weariness of the night. We long for rest from the exhaustion and the stress of the blight that we now suffer under.

This is often compounded by the feeling that God has not answered us. I think of Job, and as He went through his great trials, He expressed this same feeling several times.

We want God's deliverance and waiting on God is often made more difficult by the reality that we don't understand the waiting.

II. A Delivering Lord

Psalms 42:8-11

A. The Call to Come

When Christ was here on this earth, He shared with the disciples the same encouragement that we find in Psalms 42, the encouragement is to come close to the Lord!

Matthew 11:28–30 KJV 1900

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

B. The Certainty of the Saviour

When our world has been turned upside down, it is imperative that we take time to draw nigh to God. To "Hope in God" is based upon what we know of the Character of God. It is based upon the facts that have been laid out for us in Scripture, and through our life.

Conclusion

Octavius Winslow wrote, "The child of God is, from necessity, a joyful man. His sins are forgiven, his soul is justified, his person is adopted, his trials are blessings, his conflicts are victories, his death is immortality, his future is a Heaven of inconceivable, unthought of, untold, and endless blessedness—with such a God, such a Saviour, and such a hope, is he not, ought he not, to be a joyful man?"

1 Timothy 1:15 KJV 1900

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.