

## Psalm 42-43 Outline

Title: For the pre-eminent one, a contemplative poem of the Sons of Korah (1)

### I. [First stanza] (2-6)

#### a. [Cry out in honesty] (2-5)

##### i. [I thirst for God]<sup>1</sup> (2-3)

Like a deer is longing for streams of water (2a)

So my soul is longing for You, O God (2b)

My soul is thirsty for God, for the living God (3a)

When will I enter and see Your face, O God? (3b)

##### ii. [I suffer in the midst of enemies]<sup>2</sup> (4)

My tears have been my bread, day and night<sup>3</sup> (4a)

When they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”<sup>4</sup> (4b)

##### iii. [I pour out my soul as I remember]<sup>5</sup> (5)

These things I remember<sup>6</sup> as I pour out my soul concerning me<sup>7</sup>:  
(5a)

That I passed along in the throng (5b)

I would lead them slowly, deliberately until<sup>8</sup> the house of God<sup>9</sup>  
(5c)

With a voice of a ringing cry and thanksgiving (5d)

The crowd of those celebrating (5e)

#### b. [Cry out in hope-refrain]<sup>10</sup> (6)

Why are you cast down/despairing my soul?<sup>11</sup> (6a)

And you murmur concerning me? (6b)

Hope in, Wait for God<sup>12</sup> (6c)

Because I will still thank/praise Him (6d)

My salvation and my God (6e)

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<sup>1</sup> I long for God because I miss Him, like a starving man longs for food.

<sup>2</sup> I suffer in the midst of taunts

<sup>3</sup> ‘day and night’ cf. verse 8.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. verse 10.

<sup>5</sup> It is made worse when I remember how good it was in the past

<sup>6</sup> ‘remember’ cf. verse 6.

<sup>7</sup> On ‘concerning me’ cf. verses 5,6,7,11, 43:4

<sup>8</sup> Cf. 43:4.

<sup>9</sup> Theme of Temple, Zion, God’s dwelling place in Psalms.

<sup>10</sup> We need both honesty and hope. Honesty with no hope leads to despair. Hope with no honesty leads to self-deception disconnected with a hurting world

<sup>11</sup> “Why despair?” When we realize Who God is, giving in to this kind of doubt and despair is unreasonable and unfaithful. Tell yourself not to listen to circumstances, but to listen to the truth. “Preach the Gospel to yourself every day.” – Lloyd-Jones. “When you can’t see God’s hand, trust His heart.” - Spurgeon

<sup>12</sup> Theme of lifting up soul, clinging to God in Psalms.

## II. [Second stanza] (7-12)

### a. [Cry out in honesty] (7-11)

#### i. [My soul is downcast as I remember] (7)

My soul is downcast concerning me (7a)

Therefore, I will remember from the land of Jordan (7b)

And Hermon<sup>13</sup>, from the mountain of Mizar<sup>14</sup> (7c)

#### ii. [I am overwhelmed with trouble] (8)

Deep chaos<sup>15</sup> in addition to deep chaos calling (8a)

The sound of your waterfalls (8b)

All of your breakers and your waves<sup>16</sup> (8c)

They pass over (concerning) me (8d)

#### a. [An interlude of hope] (9)

By day, Yahweh will command His covenant love<sup>17</sup>  
(9a)

In the night, His song is with me (9b)

A prayer to the God of my life<sup>18</sup> (9c)

#### iii. [I am forgotten by God, oppressed by enemies] (10)

I say to God my rock (10a)

Why have you forgotten me? (10b)

Why do I walk in darkness, oppressed by an enemy?<sup>19</sup>  
(10c)

#### iv. [I suffer in the midst of enemies] (11)

When my bones are shattered (11a)

My foes reproach me saying all day long, "Where is your God?"  
(11b)

### b. [Cry out in hope- refrain] (12)

Why are you cast down/despairing my soul? (12a)

And you murmur concerning me? (12b)

Hope in, Wait for God (12c)

Because I will still thank/praise Him (12d)

My salvation and my God (12e)

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<sup>13</sup> Mountain at the extreme border or outside the border of the promised land.

<sup>14</sup> Or 'from the small mountain'.

<sup>15</sup> In Hebrew cosmology, *tehom* [deep] is the primeval chaos of the sea which is overcome by God's creative ordering and limiting. The deep is feared and is an enemy which is overcome by God's saving activity.

<sup>16</sup> Fig. of calamities and chastisements, BDB.

<sup>17</sup> Heb. *Chesed*, often translated, 'lovingkindness', 'unfailing love', 'grace'

<sup>18</sup> Very similar (one letter difference) to 'living God' in verse 3.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. 43:2.

- III. [Third stanza] (1-5)
- a. [Cry out in honesty] (1-4)
- i. [a prayer for vindication] (1)  
Vindicate me O God (1a)  
Plead my case against an ungodly nation (1b)  
Deliver me from a man of treachery and injustice (1c)
- ii. [I am forgotten by God, oppressed by enemies] (2)  
For You are God of my refuge (2a)  
Why have you rejected me (2b)  
Why do I walk in darkness, oppressed by an enemy? (2c)
- iii. [a prayer for light and truth to guide] (3)  
Stretch out Your light and Your faithfulness/truth<sup>20</sup> (3a)  
These, let them guide me (3b)  
They will bring me unto Your holy mountain (3c)  
And unto Your dwelling place (3d)
- iv. [an expression of assurance] (4)  
And let me go in unto the altar of God (4a)  
Unto God, my gladness and my joy (4b)  
I will thank/praise You with a lyre, God, my God (4c)
- b. [Cry out in hope] (5)  
Why are you cast down/despairing my soul? (5a)  
And you murmur concerning me? (5b)  
Hope in, Wait for God (5c)  
Because I will still thank/praise Him (5d)  
My salvation and my God (5e)

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<sup>20</sup> Heb. *Emeth*, often translated ‘faithfulness’, ‘truth’, often paired with *chesed* (42:8) when referring to God as being/having ‘grace and truth’ e.g. Exo 34:6, Psa 25:10; 85:10; 89:15, Isa 16:5, John 1:17.

## Rough outline

1	Title	
2-3a	intro	I Thirst for God Living God
3b	D	When? will I enter and see your face?
4	C	Tears, Day and Night They say where is your God?
5a-b	B	I remember concerning my soul good times in the temple
5b	F	in the temple Todah
6	A	REFRAIN
7-8	B	Concerning my soul I remember during bad times and chaos
9	E	Day and Night Chesed God of my life
10	D	Why? God of my security Why reject me? Walking in darkness-oppression
11	C	They say where is your God?
12	A	REFRAIN
1-2a		Vindicate me God of my refuge
2b	D	Why Reject me? Walk in darkness-oppression
3a	E	Emeth guide me
3b-4	F	lead me to holy mountain, dwelling place Todah
5	A	REFRAIN