

## Psalm 43 <sup>1</sup>

# "The Psalmist's Plea to God to Rescue Him from Exile and Take Him to Jerusalem to Worship!"

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### A1 THE PSALMIST'S PRAYER TO GOD FOR VINDICATION AND DELIVERANCE 43:1-2

#### B1 His Plea for God's Intervention 43:1

C1 His Plea for Vindication: {1} Vindicate <sup>2</sup> me, O God,<sup>3</sup> and plead my case against an ungodly <sup>4</sup> nation;<sup>5</sup>

C2 His Plea for Deliverance: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

#### B2 His Complaint about God's Present Inaction 43:2

C1 The basis of his request: {2} For You are the God of my strength;

C2 The essence of his complaint: why have You rejected me?

C3 The proof of his complaint: Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 43: This psalm completes the song begun in Psalm 42. Though Psalm 42 and 43 are one psalm in many Hebrew manuscripts, Psalm 43 is also an independent song of praise. In it the psalmist asked the Lord to lead him back to Jerusalem where he longed to serve and praise. (Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

<sup>2</sup> 43:1 - vindicate (*shaf-dti'-ni*): Judge me; or serve as my judge / lawgiver, (O God). The next words are explicitly legal in nature -- plead my case (*verivah rivi*): One notices in Heb. the similarity between the words. A *riv* is a legal dispute – a lawsuit if you will. To convey the close association between the verb (1st word) and the noun (2nd), one might translate, "Dispute my dispute," or "Plead my plea," or "Decide my decision." None of these make for good English. To paraphrase, we might translate the first half of the verse thus: "Vindicate me (in Your court of Law), O God; Prosecute my lawsuit against a pagan nation."

<sup>3</sup> 44:1 - God: Uniformly designated Elohim in this psalm except for v. 4, where He is once designated El, and thrice Elohim.

<sup>4</sup> 43:1 - ungodly (*lo kha-sid'*): Lit., not kind or not devout. We could translate impious, or paraphrase, "pagan."

<sup>5</sup> 43:1 - nation ... man: The psalmist pleads for deliverance from both an ungodly nation and a treacherous and unjust or perverse man. He declines to use the definite article in either case -- he is concerned with the moral fiber of an unspecified nation in which he finds himself and also with the moral fiber of man by which he is surrounded. He restricts himself to the singular in each case (nation ... man).

**A2 THE PSALMIST'S REQUEST TO GOD TO LEAD HIM BACK TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP 43:3-4**

**B1 His Request That God Would Personally Convey Him Back to Jerusalem 43:3**

C1 His Request for God's Personal Presence: {3} O send out Your light <sup>6</sup> and Your truth, let them lead me;

C2 His Request to be Led Back to Jerusalem to the Sanctuary on Mt. Zion: Let them bring me to Your holy hill <sup>7</sup> And to Your dwelling places.

**B2 His Promise to Worship God 43:4**

C1 Worshipping God at the altar: {4} Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy;

C2 Praising God with the lyre: And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.

**A3 THE EXILED PSALMIST'S HOPE YET TO PRAISE GOD IN THE SANCTUARY DESPITE HIS PRESENT DESPAIR 43:5**

**B1 His Perplexity over His Present Despair:** {5} Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me?

**B2 His Admonition to Himself to Hope in God:** Hope in God,

**B3 His Assurance of Someday Praising God in His Sanctuary:** for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 43

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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Published Online by [WordExplain.com](http://WordExplain.com)

Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)

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<sup>6</sup> 43:3 - light, truth: The psalmist is asking for God to retrieve him from his temporary exile in Lebanon (see Psa. 42:6, note 10) with His personal presence and His personal command. God's light refers to His shekinah glory, the brilliance that conveys materially the glory of the invisible God. The psalmist is asking for a personal visit from God to lead him back to Jerusalem to worship. For light, compare also Psa. 4:6; 27:1; 36:9; Isa. 9:2; 10:17; 60:19-20; Mic. 7:8; Matt. 4:16; Lk 1:79. God's truth refers to God's Word. He is asking for God to come personally and tangibly to Lebanon and guide him back to Jerusalem for worship.

<sup>7</sup> 43:3 - holy hill: A reference to Mount Zion. This alerts us that this psalm was composed no earlier than the reign of David, who moved the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:12-17) (see also Psa. 42:2 note 6).