

PSALM 43
Prayer for Deliverance.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy H. Enoch (6-15-94).
- B. Ash expresses the general consensus that these two psalms should be one.
"Though Psalms 42 and 43 are numbered separately, there is a general consensus that they are actually a single psalm. Beside the thrice-repeated refrain in 42:5, 11, and 43:5, parts of 42:9 and 43:2 are virtually identical. The meter, thought, language and problems are the same. Further, Psalm 43 is the only one (except Psalm 71) in this section of the Psalter (Psalms 42-72) without a heading, which probably indicates that it was not intended to stand separately." (Anthony Ash, Vol. X, PSALMS, in The Living Word Commentaries, p. 153.)
- C. The text of the combined psalms divide into three sections: Psa. 42:1-5; 42:6-11, and 43:1-5, each ending with the refrain, "Why are you cast down, O my soul?" with an expression of hope, determination to worship and praise God and confidence in His help.
- D. The psalmist seems to be exiled away from Jerusalem, and unable to attend the feasts and worship with his people. We do not know when this was.

COMMENTS.

- A. Pleas for Vindication and Restoration (43:1-6).
Three terms convey his prayer: vindicate, plead my cause and deliver.
Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation;
O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!
2 For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me;
Let them bring me to Your holy hill
And to Your dwelling places.
4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
To God my exceeding joy;
And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.
5 Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And why are you disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.
[v1] "VINDICATE me, O God, and PLEAD MY CAUSE against an unholy nation; Oh, DELIVER me from the deceitful and unjust man!" It seems that often an ungodly nation is identified by an unjust man.
[v3] "Oh send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me:..." It is fortunate in our troubles, when we can desire the light of God's truth to lead us. He prays that he might be brought back to God's worship: "to the holy hill and to Your tabernacle."