

hope in God

Psalms 42–43

Two Psalms in One

Psalms 42 and 43 make up one song with three stanzas. The chorus is repeated verbatim at the end of each section (42:5, 11, 43:5), and other key lines are repeated as well (cf. 42:3, 10; 42:9, 43:2). While Psalm 42 contains an inscription of its authorship, there is no inscription for Psalm 43.

A Psalm of Lament

The first two stanzas give a picture of what the psalmist is experiencing. He feels like a wounded deer desperately searching for water. He feels like he is has gone over a waterfall and is being pummeled by waves of water. In the third stanza, we find he is being harassed by the ungodly.

Feeling Alone and Abandoned

He is looking for God's help and deliverance, but it seems like God has forgotten and rejected him, so he pleads for vindication. His adversaries taunt him, saying, "Where is your God?" He remembers times of vibrant worship at the now-destroyed temple, but now this joy is gone.

The Answer: Hope in God

In the refrain he reminds himself that God is his only hope and that he will praise God once again. He preaches the character and nature of God to himself. The external opposition and struggle he faces is only able to be overcome by God. He must trust God to deliver him.

I must trust God, my only hope to deliver me from the difficulties of life.

- Hope in God, in the person of Jesus Christ, for salvation from sin (Acts 4:12).
- Hope in God to deliver you from sin (Rom 7:24–25).
- Hope in God to use your trials to make you like Jesus Christ (Rom 8:28–29).