

WHEN GOD DISAPPOINTS YOU

PSALM 44

Introduction:

There is mystery surrounding this psalm. No one knows for sure who wrote the Psalm, and no one knows for sure the circumstances that provoked the psalm. Scholars like Calvin dated the psalm in the Maccabean period that seemed to best approximate what is set forth in the psalm. That was one of the few times in the history of Israel when the nation suffered even though there was no idolatry in the nation. Others see the psalm related to some of the military defeats suffered during the reign of David when there was general national loyalty to the Lord.

It is interesting that evidently the early Christians suffering at the hand of Rome found some comfort in this Psalm. At least we know that Paul quoted verse 22 in giving encouragement to the suffering believers in Rome.

Philip Yancey has written a sobering book about Disappointment with God. He recounts life after life where people undergo great suffering even though they have been faithful and loyal to the Lord.

What can we learn from this psalm that might help us in those times when God disappoints us; when He does not live up to our expectations?

I. REFRESH YOUR MEMORY OF PAST VICTORIES FROM
THE LORD (V. 1-3)

It has not always been dark. There were days in which the sun did shine. It is good to remember those days when the sun does not shine. God had been good to Israel even though times were tough now.

II. CONTINUE TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD AS YOUR ONLY
HOPE (V. 4-8)

The emphasis is upon “Thou” or “You”. There is no other King and no other hope except the God of Israel.

III. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT (V. 9-16)

In this period of the greater light of the New Testament few of us would be comfortable with this language. We are not as confident in our faithfulness to the Lord as was the psalmist. Only in a relative degree have any of us been faithful to the covenant, but there may well be times when suffering can not be related to any specific transgression against the Lord.

In the pain of disappointment, they kept talking to God.

IV. KEEP YOUR SIDE OF THE COVENANT WITH GOD (V. 17-
22)

Our faithful obedience should not be conditioned on the sun always shining, every day being another victory. Will we be faithful and loyal to our covenant with God when He seems to have forgotten that we exist?

V. CRY OUT FOR GOD'S HELP (V. 23-26)

Keep on crying out to God in prayer like everything depended on God—for it does.

The reality is that Israel survived this crisis. If they had not survived, we would not be reading this Psalm. And if we follow the example of the psalmist, we will survive our disappointment with God.