

Psalm 142: Hiding

This psalm, also attributed to David, was written "when he was in the cave," fleeing from Saul. He cried to the Lord for help, for God was the only One he could depend on. David was utterly helpless before his enemies and no one seemed to care for his life.

1-2: David, possibly addressing others with him, exclaimed that he cried out to the LORD for mercy, voicing his complaint and his trouble.

3-4: He then called on God to look to his right (where normally someone would be standing to guard him) because he was without refuge and support - no one cared for his life! His only hope was the Lord to whom he prayed.

5-7: When David cried to God he affirmed his confidence in Him: God was his safety and his life. God was his Portion, his allotment, all he had.

In his desperate situation, likened to a prison, he petitioned the Lord to rescue him from his strong enemies so he could then praise God's name (His revealed attributes) for what He had done. Also the righteous could then joyfully gather about him because of the Lord's goodness in answering his prayer.

Psalm 143: Remembering God's ways.

1-6: David called on the LORD for mercy and relief, based on God's faithfulness and righteousness. David was acknowledging that his sufferings were partly punishment for sins, for he desired that God not judge him.

The enemy had attacked David and driven him out, so that he was in darkness, in gloom and might as well have been dead. His spirit grew weak from this oppression. Yet David mustered confidence when he remembered the former days. His faith was rekindled and his spirit strengthened when he recalled the mighty works of the Lord in the past.

7-12: His confidence led to his petition for deliverance; he prayed for quick deliverance lest he in his weak spirit go down to the pit. Asking God not to hide His face meant he did not want God to overlook him.

First, he desired that the loyal love of the LORD lead him in the way he should go.

Second, he wanted to be rescued from his enemies.

Third, he wanted to be taught by the Spirit of God.

Fourth, David wanted to be preserved by God's righteousness and love.

Psalm 144: My Rock.

After blessing God for glorious deliverances in past battles, and marvelling that God took note of perishing people, King David prayed for divine intervention in combat. He expressed confidence that because the Lord gives victory the nation would experience peace and prosperity.

1-2: David praised the LORD for having subdued people under him. In this praise he used several expressions to portray the fact that the Lord enabled him to win victories. The Lord had taught him how to fight, and God was his Rock, his Fortress

3-4: Having praised the nature of God, David then voiced his petition for victory in battle. The thought that God would subdue anyone under him caused him to marvel at the possibility of God's intervention on man's behalf. Since man is like a vapor that vanishes away and a shadow that is soon gone why would God stoop to help him?

5-8: He desired that the LORD would descend in glorious power. Even God's touching the mountains would cause them to smoke from the fires of burning trees. David asked the Lord to use lightning to scatter the enemies.

9-11: David immediately broke out in a declaration of his confidence. He vowed to praise the Lord with a new song for delivering him from the deadly sword. Then he repeated his prayer for deliverance from his enemies, whom he described in words nearly identical to those.

12-14: Because the Lord would rescue His servant the king, the land would enjoy great benefits.

First, the subjects of the king would greatly prosper, like growing plants and exquisitely carved palace pillars.

Second, the nation would prosper economically - with barns full of crops and with numerous sheep and oxen.

Third, the people would be blessed with peace.

15: So David concluded that any people whose God is the LORD will be blessed. This royal psalm shows that divine intervention in a holy war on behalf of the Lord's anointed brings peace and prosperity.