

Psalm 43 (NIV)

¹Vindicate me, my God,
and plead my cause
against an unfaithful nation.
Rescue me from those who are
deceitful and wicked.
²You are God my stronghold.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?
³Send me your light and your faithful care,
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.
⁴Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight.
I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.
⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 43 (ESVUK)

43 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people,
from the deceitful and unjust man
deliver me!
²For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you rejected me?
Why do I go about mourning
because of the oppression of the enemy?
³Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!
⁴Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.
⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.

Psalm 43 Questions

1. Look for repeated words and phrases, and for contrasting words and phrases. What do you notice, that you didn't notice when you first read the psalm?
2. Gather what is said about God in this Psalm: his power, his character, his relation to the world, and to his people.
3. What kind of event might have sparked one of God's people to write this psalm? Can you imagine anything happening to you that would lead you to praise the Lord God in this way?
4. Psalm 46 inspired Martin Luther's famous hymn 'A mighty fortress is our God'. Can you think of other hymns and songs that include any of the words, phrases and pictures that appear in this psalm?

Prayer Points

Give thanks for:

The 75 years of relative peace we've enjoyed in Europe since VE day
Those who gave their lives for that peace
Those who formed the NHS and made good changes after that war
The good medical and social provision we benefit from
The relative justice, order, and freedom that we have

Pray for this country:

For the unity of the United Kingdom
For the government and opposition as lockdown is lifted gradually
For those in the most vulnerable groups, especially in the 'gig economy'
For the royal family.
For blue sky thinking on how to come out of this pandemic a 'better country'

Pray for the world:

For mission partners in Nigeria (Rick & Alana Creighton), Gambia (Steven Musa-Kormayea) and Kenya (David & Catherine Kariuki) who will be preaching for us over the coming Sundays.
For the continents of India, Africa, Asia & S. America where many exist on a daily wage that is threatened by this pandemic.
For the Lord to protect these parts of the world from the spread of the Coronavirus

Pray for our church:

Pray for HRS to grow stronger, more united and more effective in this pandemic
Jon & Lizzy and all working on the online services each Sunday
The Mid week meditations on the Psalms for lockdown
People to gain confidence in using zoom
Church family going out to work on the 'front line'
Working out what to do if / when limited face to face meeting is possible
The protection of Eardley Rd Hall from squatters
The planning applications for Eardley Rd Hall to succeed & for the main building to be restored.
Church family to love one another through this challenging time