

‘ ... for I will yet praise Him....’

Bible Study Jan 17th

Psalms 42

Many Hebrew manuscripts present Psalms 42 & 43 as one psalm, sharing a similar situation and theme, while ending with the same instruction.

Read both Psalms:

- From what is said in the psalms, what is the speaker's situation/context ie what is happening/has happened to the speaker?

Verse 1 & 2 set up two key ideas in these psalms: the desire for God and a sense of waiting.

- for most of us, a panting deer is a descriptive image rather than a reality. How do you understand this first verse?
- When have you thirsted for God? How did God deal with you?
- The use of 'when' in v2 implies having to wait. Where else in these psalms do you get a sense of waiting?
- Why does God cause us to wait? What is the value of waiting?
- The speaker in the psalms goes through a range of emotions and responses while waiting. What are these? How do you deal with waiting?

Verse 7 give us a sense of the speaker being overwhelmed.

- What are some of the things that can overwhelm us in our lives today?

- How does the speaker deal with the sense of being overwhelmed? Which of the responses do you most relate to? Why?

- Throughout these psalms we are given a number of titles and/or descriptions of God (v2; v4; v5; v8; v9). Look at these. What do they indicate about Him and/or His characteristics?

It can be helpful to reflect on the name/s by which we most often refer to God since the name/s we most often use indicates something of how we view Him and/or our relationship with Him. Think about the name/s you most use and what that indicates about your relationship with God.

The psalms end with a clear instruction.

- What is it?

- Why is the word 'yet' used in it?

Spend some time praying over the things that you have written/thought about.