

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

5 June 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

God's promise (Hebrews 6:13f)

A.M. Lesson:

God's family (Ephesians 3:14f)

P.M. Lesson:

Hunger and thirst (Matthew 5:6)

Wednesday:

Special series on Covenant

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

***Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.***

Psalm 44

NRSV

1 We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

2 you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;

3 for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm give them victory; but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance, for you delighted in them.

4 You are my King and my God; you command victories for Jacob.

5 Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down our assailants.

6 For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.

7 But you have saved us from our foes, and have put to confusion those who hate us.

8 In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. (Selah)

9 Yet you have rejected us and abased us, and have not gone out with our armies.

10 You made us turn back from the foe, and our enemies have gotten spoil.

11 You have made us like sheep for slaughter, and have scattered us among the nations.

12 You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no

high price for them.

13 You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.

14 You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.

15 All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face

16 at the words of the taunters and revilers, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

17 All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten you, or been false to your covenant.

18 Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way,

19 yet you have broken us in the haunt of jackals, and covered us with deep darkness.

20 If we had forgotten the name of our God, or spread out our hands to a strange god,

21 would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

22 Because of you we are being killed all day long, and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not cast us off forever!

24 Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

25 For we sink down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

26 Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

Perplexed, smitten, still praying

S. Edward Tesh & Walter D. Zorn

There is no mistaking Psalm 44 as a *national lament*. It may have been utilized in the liturgy of worship in times of national distress, but in its origin it surely is the response of a greatly troubled soul to an overwhelming national tragedy. The people of God have suffered a devastating military defeat, being slaughtered like sheep. They have had to flee from the enemy, who have plundered the land, taken captives, scattering them among the nations, making them slaves. It is all so perplexing and devastating to the spirit, for although the people have been constant in their loyalty to God, they have become the laughingstock of the nations.

Noteworthy of this particular time of suffering is the fact that it was considered to be undeserved. In several psalms it is acknowledged that evil has come as a consequence of the nation's sins. But these people have been loyal to God, and yet they suffer! Why? They can only conclude that God has rejected them. This leaves them perplexed, perhaps embittered. Their perplexity arises from the fact that they are aware that God had provided deliverance for their fathers while they, even though loyal, continue to suffer. Apparently, they dare to hope, though no word of hope is recorded. The psalm does open, in the Hebrew text, with direct address to the Lord: "O God!" And the last word is "your unfailing love," as the basis of an impassioned plea for help.

Psalms, volume 1. College Press. 1999.

What did you know about God before you became a Christian? Who told you about him? What could you teach an unbeliever about God? Just as important, who could you teach?

Revolution Study Bible

Rise up and help us

Lawrence O. Richards

Why does God sometimes permit his most faithful servants to suffer? While Psalm 44 offers no

specific answer, there may be a hint in verse 22. "For your sake we face death all day long." Not all suffering is punishment. Some suffering may be the price we pay for remaining loyal to God in a hostile world. As Peter reminds us, to this we were called, "Because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1Peter 2:21).

Devotional Commentary. Cook. 2002.

News:

Last week, Ben Atchley's sister Eva Lee died suddenly.

Melinda, Joy Gibson's daughter, is recovering from surgery.

Billie Martin has requested prayers for professional issues she is experiencing in the workplace.

Prayer list:

Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico

Dan Keele—mission work

Robin Richards—back pain

Sam Appleton—declining health

John Cunningham—cancer

Norma Robinson—health

Linda Boling—health

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com. <http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



Most people don't
really want the truth.
They just want the
constant reassurance
that what they believe
in is the truth.

Author unknown