

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 June.....	Psalm 001.....	The Path
2) 11 June.....	Psalm 078.....	The Past
3) 18 June.....	Psalm 023.....	The Shepherd
4) 25 June.....	Psalm 138.....	Our Response
5) 02 July.....	Psalm 084.....	His Presence
6) 09 July.....	Psalm 095.....	The Creator
7) 16 July.....	Psalm 019.....	God Revealed
8) 23 July.....	Psalm 136.....	His Love
9) 30 July.....	Psalm 146.....	His Faithfulness
10) 06 Aug.....	Psalm 051.....	The Confession
11) 13 Aug.....	Psalm 032.....	The Cleansing
12) 20 Aug.....	Psalm 141.....	The Protector
13) 27 Aug.....	Psalm 042.....	The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- Eleven psalms are attributed to the sons of Korah (42; 44-49; 84-85;87-88), who were Levite descendants of Kohath, the father of Korah (cf. 1Chron 6:22-48; 9:17-32; 2Chron 20:19). In brief, King David put these Levites in charge of congregational singing.
- This psalm conveys that having hope in God's serves as encouragement during the roughest times in life, even if one is unable to find God in his pain.

Passage	Comments
Psalm 42:1-2	<p>1 «For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah» As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.</p> <p>2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?</p>
42:3	<p>3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"</p> <p>• Do we thirst for God, hunger for His word, seek His righteousness with desperation? Do we get up early or stay up late to make time to pray and read His word? Is God's word more valuable to us than gold (Psalm 119:72); and even more than food (Job 23:12)?</p>
42:4	<p>4 These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God, With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.</p> <p>• More than likely, these particular sons of Korah were in Babylonian captivity and could only think back to the good old days</p> <p>• Another perspective is that of a wayward sinner, a prodigal son, who recalls the good church life he had before he pursued sin</p> <p>• Even a prodigal son, a fallen Pastor, or a wayward Deacon has reason to hope for better days once they repent & refocus on God</p> <p>• Do we allow the repentant to be restored to fellowship (though probably not restored to their previous leadership position)?</p>
42:5-6	<p>5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.</p> <p>6 O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore, I remember You from the land of the Jordan and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.</p>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is our hope in God a blind hope with no substance? What makes our hope in God substantive and not mere positive thinking? • Consider this. God's promises are solidly immutable – assuming they are properly interpreted and applied, and can, therefore, be fully trusted – even if undergoing loss, persecution, martyrdom.
42:7	<p>7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psalmist saw God as treating him as an enemy. If you feel the same at times you would be in good company, because Elijah, Job, David, Jeremiah, Isaiah and others felt the same at times. Even Jesus cried out, "My God, why have you forsaken Me?" • Can we be like Job and say, "Though, I feel God has wronged me, I will still be faithful to Him and live righteously." Job 27:2-6
42:8	<p>8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psalmist foresees a time when God's blessings and prosperity will once again return (daytime); and even during the night time (when things in life grow dark), He will still be able to rejoice – but that time is not now. Now, he is in full despair mode. • The solution to migrate from total despair to a hopeful life one more time begins with PRAYER • Solomon also realized the cycle of life: <i>In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity consider — God has made the one as well as the other, for nothing in life is certain..... Ecc 7:14</i>
42:9-10	<p>9 I will say to God my rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"</p> <p>10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, while they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the toughest questions. Jesus asked a similar question without receiving an answer in His lifetime – "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" See response for verse 3
42:11	<p>11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? Why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance & my God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See response for verses 5-6

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

Life is like a rollercoaster at times where we have dips & valleys. Theoretically, we should be consistent in our faith in both good and bad times, but "Life Happens." Sometimes we are taken by surprise with horrendous catastrophes. Are we prepared to handle them courageously and still bring God glory by having a sound testimony? Only time will tell, BUT it begins with contemplating the cycles of life God may put us through. We better ask the tough questions now! What would I do if I lost my spouse, my kids, my job, my health? Would I still be able to say, "Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him"

NEXT WEEK: Exodus 1-4. God is silent for 430 years during Israel's Egyptian pilgrimage. Then when the time was right, Moses is providentially prepared to relocate ~3,000,000 whiners out of Egypt & through a desert for 40 years.



When things look hopeless, where do we turn? Psalm 42:11