

Psalm 42-43 Outline

Title: For the pre-eminent one, a contemplative poem of the Sons of Korah

I. (First stanza)

a. (Cry out in honesty)

i. (I thirst for God)

Like a deer is longing for streams of water
So my soul is longing for You, O God
My soul is thirsty for God, for the living God
When will I enter and see Your face, O God?

ii. (I suffer in the midst of enemies)

My tears have been my bread, day and night¹
When they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"²

iii. (I pour out my soul as I remember)

These things I remember³ as I pour out my soul concerning me⁴:
That I passed along in the throng
I would lead them slowly, deliberately until⁵ the house of God⁶
With a voice of a ringing cry and thanksgiving
The crowd of those celebrating

b. (Cry out in hope-refrain)

Why are you cast down/despairing my soul?
And you murmur concerning me?
Hope in, Wait for God⁷
Because I will still thank/praise Him
My salvation and my God

II. (Second stanza)

a. (Cry out in honesty)

i. (My soul is downcast as I remember)

My soul is downcast concerning me
Therefore, I will remember from the land of Jordan
And Hermon⁸, from the mountain of Mizar⁹

ii. (I am overwhelmed with trouble)

Deep chaos in addition to deep chaos calling
The sound of your waterfalls
All of your breakers and your waves¹⁰
They pass over (concerning) me

a. (An interlude of hope)

By day, Yahweh will command His covenant love¹¹
In the night, His song is with me
A prayer to the God of my life¹²

iii. (I am forgotten by God, oppressed by enemies)

I say to God my rock

¹ 'day and night' cf. verse 8.

² Cf. verse 10.

³ 'remember' cf. verse 6.

⁴ On 'concerning me' cf. verses 5,6,7,11, 43:4

⁵ Cf. 43:4.

⁶ Theme of Temple, Zion, God's dwelling place in Psalms.

⁷ Theme of lifting up soul, clinging to God in Psalms.

⁸ Mountain at the extreme border or outside the border of the promised land.

⁹ Or 'from the small mountain'.

¹⁰ Fig. of calamities and chastisements, BDB.

¹¹ Heb. *Chesed*, often translated, 'lovingkindness', 'unfailing love', 'grace'

¹² Very similar (one letter difference) to 'living God' in verse 3.

- Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I walk in darkness, oppressed by an enemy?¹³
- iv. (I suffer in the midst of enemies)
When my bones are shattered
My foes reproach me saying all day long, “Where is your God?”
- b. (Cry out in hope- refrain)
Why are you cast down/despairing my soul?
And you murmur concerning me?
Hope in, Wait for God
Because I will still thank/praise Him
My salvation and my God
- III. (Third stanza)
- a. (Cry out in honesty)
- i. (a prayer for vindication)
Vindicate me O God
Plead my case against an ungodly nation
Deliver me from a man of treachery and injustice
- ii. (I am forgotten by God, oppressed by enemies)
For You are God of my refuge
Why have you rejected me
Why do I walk in darkness, oppressed by an enemy?
- iii. (a prayer for light and truth to guide)
Stretch out Your light and Your faithfulness/truth¹⁴
These, let them guide me
They will bring me unto Your holy mountain
And unto Your dwelling place
- iv. (an expression of assurance)
And let me go in unto the altar of God
Unto God, my gladness and my joy
I will thank/praise You with a lyre, God, my God
- b. (Cry out in hope)
Why are you cast down/despairing my soul?
And you murmur concerning me?
Hope in, Wait for God
Because I will still thank/praise Him
My salvation and my God

¹³ Cf. 43:2.

¹⁴ Heb. *Emeth*, often translated ‘faithfulness’, ‘truth’, often paired with *chesed* (42:8) when referring to God as being/having ‘grace and truth’ e.g. Exo 34:6, Psa 25:10; 85:10; 89:15, Isa 16:5, John 1:17.

Psalm 42 - 43

קָרַח לְבָנָיִם מְשֻׁכָּל לְמַנְצִיחַ 42:1
 Prop. N. msc+ל msa PielPtcpmsa+ל
 Korah to/by/of sons of contemplative poem¹⁵ to the one being pre-eminent, supervisor

מֵי תַעֲרַג עַל-אֲפִיקַי- 2 כְּאֵיל
 mda mpc prep QIpf3fs fsa+כ
 water channels, streams of concerning¹⁶ she is longing¹⁷ like a doe

בֵּן נַפְשִׁי תַעֲרַג אֶלֶיךָ אֱלֹהִים
 mpa prep+2ms QIpf3fs fsc+1cs conj
 God concerning¹⁸ You she is longing my soul thus

חַי לְאֵל לֵאלֹהִים לֵאלֹהִים נַפְשִׁי צְמָאָה 3
 adj.msa msa+ל mpa+ל fsc+1cs QPf3fs
 living to God to God my soul she is thirsty¹⁹

מַתִּי אֲבוֹא
 QIpf1cs interog.
 I will enter when?²⁰

וְאֶרְאֶה פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים
 mpa mpc QIpf1cs+ו
 God Your face and I will see

לֶחֶם דְּמַעְתִּי לִי הִיְתָה- 4
 msa fs(coll.)c+1cs lcs+ל QPf3fs
 bread my tears to me she was/has been

¹⁵ From root שכל 'give attention to, consider, ponder'

¹⁶ Specification- 'concerning' Will. §289.

¹⁷ Cf. v. 2b, Joel 1:20.

¹⁸ Specification- 'concerning' Will. §306.

¹⁹ Cf. 63:2.

²⁰ Cf. BDB refs- used often in Psalms lament phrases 'how long?'

יוֹמִם וּלְיַלָּה

fsa+וּ msa
and night day

בְּאָמַר אֵלַי כָּל- הַיּוֹם

msa+הּ adj prep+1cs QInfcs+ב
the day all of unto me when he says/ they say

אֵיךְ אֱלֹהֶיךָ

mpc+2ms interrog.
your God (is) where?

אֶזְכְּרָה

QIpfc(choort)1cs

I will remember/ let me remember

5 אֵלֶּה

mpa

these things

עָלַי נַפְשִׁי

fsc+1cs prep+1cs
my soul upon me

וְאֶשְׂפָּכָה

QIpfc(choort)1cs+וּ

and I will pout out/ let me pour out

כִּי אֶעְבֵּר בַּסֵּף

msa+ב+הּ QIpfc1cs conj
in the thron I passed along that

עַד-בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים

mpa msc prep
God house of until

אֶדְרֹם

HithpIpfc1cs+3mp

I would²¹ walk, lead them slowly, deliberately

בְּקוֹל- רְנָה וְתוֹדָה

fsa+וּ fsa msc+ב
and thanksgiving ringing cry in voice of

²¹ Frequentive or habitual Will. §168.

חֹגֶגַּהּ הַמּוֹן
 QPtcpmsa msc
 one keeping festival crowd of

6 מֵה־ תִּשְׁתַּחֲוּתִי נַפְשִׁי וְתַהֲמִי עָלַי
 interog. HithpIpf2fs fsc+1cs QVCIpf2fs prep+1cs
 you are cast down, despairing why? my soul and you murmur²³ concerning²² me

הוֹחִילִי לְאֱלֹהִים
 HiphIpv2fs mpa+ל
 wait, hope for²⁵ toward/for²⁴ God

כִּי- עוֹד אֹדְנֶנּוּ יְשׁוּעוֹת פְּנֵיו
 conj adv HiphIpf1cs+3ms fpc mpc+3ms
 yet/still because I will give thanks/praise²⁶ Him salvation of His face

7 אֱלֹהֵי עָלַי נַפְשִׁי תִּשְׁתַּחֲוּחַ
 mpc+1cs prep+1cs fsc+1cs HithpIpf3fs
 my God²⁷ concerning me my soul She is cast down/despairing

עַל-כֵּן אֶזְכְּרֶךָּ מֵאֶרֶץ יַרְדֵּן
 conj QIpf1cs+2ms msc+מ PropN.
 therefore I will remember from the land of Jordan

וְחֶרְמוֹנִים מִהַר מִצְעַר
 PropN.+ו msc+מ PropN.
 and Hermon from the mountain of Mizar

8 תְּהוֹם- אֶל- תְּהוֹם קוֹרָא
 msa prep msa QPtcpmsa
 deep chaos²⁸ in addition to²⁹ deep chaos calling

²² Specification, Will. §289.

²³ BDB- 'fig. of soul in discouragement.'

²⁴ Specification, Will. §273.

²⁵ Cf. 2 Kgs 6:33, Mic 7:7 Lam 3:24, Job 32:11, Psa 38:16, 130:5

²⁶ Cf. BDB refs, ritual act, but not separated from attitude.

²⁷ MT has ... אלהי פניו 'His face. My God...' other mss and versions פני ואלהי 'my face and my God'

צְנוּרִיךְ

mpc+2ms

Your water spouts (“fig. of sluices of heaven opened” BDB)/waterfalls

לְקוֹל

msc+ל

to voice/sound of

וּגְלִיךְ

mpc+2ms+ו

and Your waves, rollers (“fig. of chastisements” BDB)³⁰

מִשְׁבְּרֵיךְ

mpc+2ms

Your breakers of sea (“fig. of calamities”)³¹

כֹּל-

adj

all of

עֲבָרוּ

QPf3cp

They pass over³²

עָלַי

prep+1cs

upon me

חֲסִדוֹ

msc+3ms

His cov’t love/faithfulness

יְהוָה

D.N.

Yahweh

יִצְוֶה

PielIpf3ms

He will command/ordain

9 יוֹמָם

adv

by day/daily

עִמִּי

prep+1cs

with me

[שִׁירוֹ] (שִׁירָה)

msc+3ms

(is) His song

msc+3fs

her song

וּבַלַּיְלָה

msa+ב+ה+ו

and in the night

חַיִּי

msc+1cs

my life

לְאֵל

msa+ל

to the God of

תְּפִלָּה

fsa

prayer

שָׁכַחְתָּנִי

QPf2ms+1cs

You forget/forgot me

לְמָה

interrog+ל

why?

סִלְעִי

msc+1cs

my cliff, fig. of security³³

לְאֵל

msa+ל

to God

10 אוֹמְרָה

QIpf1cs

I say

²⁸ In Hebrew cosmology, *tehom* is the primeval chaos of the sea which is overcome by God’s creative ordering and limiting. The deep is feared and is an enemy overcome in God’s saving activity.

²⁹ Williams §305.

³⁰ Cf. Jonah 2:3, Ezek. 26:3, Is 48:18.

³¹ Cf. 2Sam 22:5, Psa 18:5, 88:8, Jonah 2:4, Job 41:17.

³² Cf. Isa 54:9, Psa 88:17, 124:4,5, Jonah 2:4.

³³ Cf. Psa 18:3, 31:4, 71:3, 40:3, Isa 33:16.

לְמַה־ קָדַר אֵלַי בְּלַחֲץ אוֹיֵב
 QPtcmsa msc+ב QIpf1cs QPtcmsa interog+ל
 Enemy in oppression of (by) I will walk being dark (in darkness)³⁴ why?

11 בְּרָצָח בְּעַצְמוֹתַי חָרְפוּנִי צוֹרְרֵי
 QPtcmpc+1cs PielPf3cp+1cs fpc+1cs+ב msa+ב
 ones binding, restricting me they reproach, despise me in my bones by shattering

בְּאִמְרָם אֵלַי כָּל־ הַיּוֹם אֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים
 mpc+2ms interog msa+ה adj prep+1cs QInfcs+3mp+ב
 your God (is) where? the day all of unto me when they say

12 מַה־ תִּשְׁתַּחֲוִי נַפְשִׁי וּמַה־ תִּהְיֶה עָלַי
 prep+1cs QIpf2fs interog+ו fsc+1cs HithIpf2fs interog.
 concerning³⁵ me you murmur³⁶ and why? my soul you are cast down, despairing why?

הוֹחִילִי לְאֱלֹהִים
 mpa+ל HiphIpf2fs
 toward/for³⁷ God wait, hope for³⁸

כִּי־ עוֹד אֲדַנּוּ יְשׁוּעַת יְשׁוּעַת פְּנֵי וְאֱלֹהֵי
 mpc+1cs+ו mpc+1cs fpc HiphIpf1cs+3ms adv conj
 and my God my face salvation of I will give thanks/praise³⁹ Him yet/still because

43:1 שְׁפֹטְנִי אֱלֹהִים וְרִיבָה רִיבִי
 msc+1cs QIpf2ms+w mpa QIpf2ms+1cs
 my dispute, case plead, dispute God execute judgment for, vindicate me

³⁴ Cf. Job 5:11, 3028, Psa 35:14, 38:7, **43:2**, Jer 8:21, 14:2.

³⁵ Specification, Will. §289.

³⁶ BDB- 'fig. of soul in discouragement.'

³⁷ Specification, Will. §273.

³⁸ Cf. 2 Kgs 6:33, Mic 7:7 Lam 3:24, Job 32:11, Psa 38:16, 130:5

³⁹ Cf. BDB refs, ritual act, but not separated from attitude.

מִגּוֹי לֹא־חָסִיד
 msa+נ neg adj.msa
 from a nation not pious, godly

תִּפְלֹטֵנִי מֵאִישׁ־מְרֵמָה וְעוֹלָה
 PiellPf2ms+1cs fsa+ו fsa msc+נ
 You will deliver me and injustice, unrighteousness deceit, treachery from man of

מֵעֲוֹזִי כִּי־אַתָּה 2 אֱלֹהֵי
 msc+1cs mpc 2ms conj.
 my place or means of safety, protection, refuge God of (are) You because

לָמָּה זָנַחְתָּנִי
 interog. QPf2ms+1cs
 why? You have rejected me

לָמָּה־קָדַר אֶתְהַלֵּךְ
 interog. QPtcpmsa HithPIpf1cs
 why? being dark (fig. of mourning) I walk around

בְּלַחַץ אוֹיֵב
 msc+נ QPtcpmsa
 oppression of (by) one being my enemy

3 שְׁלַח אֹרְךָ וְאֱמֶתֶךָ
 QIpf2ms msc+2ms fsc+2ms+ו
 stretch out, send Your light and Your faithfulness/truth

יִנְחֵנִי הֵמָּה
 HiphIpf(juss)3mp+1cs 3mp
 let them lead, guide me⁴⁰ them

⁴⁰ Cf. Psa 23:3, 31:4, 61:3, 73:24, 139:10, 143:10.

יְבִיאֹנִי אֶל-הַר-קְדְּשֶׁךָ
 msc+2ms prep HiphIpf3mp+1cs
 Your holiness the mountain of unto they will bring me

וְאֶל-מִשְׁכְּנוֹתֶיךָ
 mpc+2ms prep+1
 Your dwelling place (of God's abode in Zion) and unto

4 וְאֵבֹא אֶל-מִזְבַּח אֱלֹהִים
 mpa msa prep QIpf(cohort)1cs+1
 God altar of unto and let me go/enter

אֶל-אֵל שְׂמֵחַת גִּילִי
 msc+1cs fsc msa prep
 my rejoicing joy, gladness of God unto

וְאֹדֶךָ בְּכִנּוֹר אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי
 mpc+1cs mpa msa+ב HiphIpf(cohort)1cs+2ms+1
 my God God in/with lyre and I will praise You

5 מַה-תִּשְׁתַּחֲוִי נַפְשִׁי וּמַה-תְּהַמִּי עָלַי
 prep+1cs QIpf2fs interog+1 fsc+1cs HithIpf2fs interog.
 concerning⁴¹ me you murmur⁴² and why? my soul you are cast down, despairing why?

הֹחֵלִי לְאֱלֹהִים
 mpa+ל HiphIpf2fs
 toward/for⁴³ God wait, hope for⁴⁴

כִּי-עוֹד אֹדֶנּוּ יְשׁוּעַת פְּנֵי וְאֱלֹהֵי
 mpc+1cs+1 mpc+1cs fpc HiphIpf1cs+3ms adv conj
 and my God my face salvation of I will give thanks/praise⁴⁵ Him yet/still because

⁴¹ Specification, Will. §289.

⁴² BDB- 'fig. of soul in discouragement.'

⁴³ Specification, Will. §273.

⁴⁴ Cf. 2 Kgs 6:33, Mic 7:7 Lam 3:24, Job 32:11, Psa 38:16, 130:5

⁴⁵ Cf. BDB refs, ritual act, but not separated from attitude.

Rough outline

1	Title	
2-3a	intro	I Thirst for God Living God
3b	D	When? will I enter and see your face?
4	C	Tears, Day and Night They say where is your God?
5a-b	B	I remember concerning my soul good times in the temple
5b	F	in the temple Todah
6	A	REFRAIN
7-8	B	Concerning my soul I remember during bad times and chaos
9	E	Day and Night Chesed God of my life
10	D	Why? God of my security Why reject me? Walking in darkness-oppression
11	C	They say where is your God?
12	A	REFRAIN
1-2a		Vindicate me God of my refuge
2b	D	Why Reject me? Walk in darkness-oppression
3a	E	Emeth guide me
3b-4	F	lead me to holy mountain, dwelling place Todah
5	A	REFRAIN

