

DAWN IN THE DARKNESS

Wednesday, April 4

Reading: Psalm 43

Psalm 43:3 *Send 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. 4 Then 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.*

“It’s always darkest just before the dawn.” This old adage has been used for centuries by people in desperate situations. It reveals a hope that relief is just around the corner. Another proverb used in these situations is “light at the end of the tunnel.” It means that someone can see better days coming. Sometimes, however, the light at the end of the tunnel could be the headlight of the oncoming train!

The author of this psalm feels the darkness closing in on him. Psalm 43 is the continuation and climax of the previous psalm. The writer has expressed his deep longing for God (42:1-5) and his concern that God has forgotten him (42:6-11). Now he cries out for God to take action and save him. It ends with the same refrain repeated twice before in Psalm 42.

At the heart of this psalm, the author cries out for God to “send me Your light and Your truth” (43:3). Light illumines our path. Just as God lead the Israelites through the wilderness by a pillar of fire, so God’s light guides us on our way (Psalm 119:105). God’s truth defines the way. The NIV translates this word as “faithful care.” The Hebrew word means “truth” or faithfulness.” It is the word used most often to describe God’s holy standards and character. God’s truth and love is revealed to us in His Word.

God’s light and truth shatters the darkness and leads us into His presence. For the Hebrew author, this meant Mount Zion where God’s Temple stood. He would sacrifice at God’s altar and sing praises to the Lord.

The New Testament tells us that we are the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16). In our darkest times, we can turn to the Light of the world.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

We have the whole truth of God found in the Scriptures. Jesus prayed for all believers when He said, “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17). In our darkest hour, we can gain hope and guidance through God’s written Word to us. Our relationship with Christ and trust in His faithful Word will bring the dawn to our lives even before the darkness is dispelled.

When the darkness closes in, do you throw yourself on “God my stronghold”? Do you let the light of Christ and the truth of His Word guide you back to God’s presence and peace?

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Joshua 23-25; Luke 24