

## **“WAKE UP, GOD!”**

Thursday, April 5

Reading: Psalm 44

**Psalm 44:23** *Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.* **24** *Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?* **25** *We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.* **26** *Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.*

The historical context of this psalm is uncertain. Many different situations have been suggested through the years. To me, the events surrounding the Assyrian invasion of Judah during the time of King Hezekiah seem to fit the best (Isaiah 36-37). Hezekiah had been leading the people back to the Lord. But now the king watched as city after city in Judah fell to Sennacherib and the Assyrian army. Soon the capital city of Jerusalem itself was surrounded; the pagan king threatening and mocking Hezekiah’s God. Hezekiah’s prayer sounds much like the words of this psalm.

“LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.” (Isaiah 37:16-17)

What do you do when God doesn’t make sense? How do you respond when to human eyes God appears to be asleep? First, Psalm 44 tells us to remember God’s faithfulness in the past. The psalmist remembered the stories of how God gave them the Promised Land. God had given them the victories, not their own strength. The past faithfulness of God spurs him on to boast in and praise God forever (44:1-8).

Yet now God’s people are suffering defeat and reproach. After examination, the author believes that this trouble is not because they had been unfaithful. They had not turned their backs on God or His covenant. He is confused about why God is allowing this to happen (44:9-22).

The psalm concludes with a cry for God to act. Though God appears to be asleep or unaware, the psalmist knows that God’s unfailing love will not abandon them. He will come to their rescue if they keep trusting in Him (44:23-26).

Though we know that God never sleeps, there are times when we all have wanted to cry out for God to wake up. However, we must remember that God’s timetable and plan is seldom what we want or expect. His purposes are far greater than ours!

This psalm teaches us to remind ourselves of God’s faithfulness. He has been faithful in the past and He will remain faithful in the present and future. Second, we must examine ourselves to be sure that there is no sin in our lives that might be causing God’s hand of discipline. Finally, we must keep trusting and keep “casting our care on Him” (1 Peter 5:7). God is not asleep, but He will not be rushed. He has a plan and a purpose. And it is based on His unfailing love.

**THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Judges 1-3; John 1**