

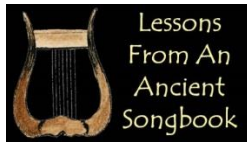
# Leaving a Legacy

## May 20, 2018

### OPEN

What is the most joyful song you can think of?

What is the saddest song you have ever heard?



Songs have a way of lifting us up in joyful celebration...they can also bring us down in sad introspection. Psalm 44 seems to capture both extremes. But there is also a third song that brings the first two into some perspective.

### DIG

What kind of victorious songs were familiar to Israel? Read "Moses Song" in Exodus 15:1-18, which was sung after God delivered Israel safely across the Red Sea.

**Psalm 44:1-8** is another song of great victory – highlighting what God did for Israel in bringing them into Canaan, the land of promise. What does this song teach us?

- We flourish by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God - v. 2
- We succeed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God - v. 3
- We advance by the \_\_\_\_\_ y of God - vv. 4-5
- We grow by giving \_\_\_\_\_ to God - vv. 6-8

At the close of verse [8 we read "Selah"](#). This is likely a musical term and may indicate a mean a pause, crescendo or even a musical interlude. In some way it invites contemplation and reflection.

Why not take a moment and reflect on the many victories which God has accomplished in your life?

Do we rejoice in the legacy of God's goodness? How quickly do we forget His blessings when difficulty comes?

From **Psalm 44:9-22** we find the second song which reflects pain and lament.

Why do we have such serious heart searching and questioning when we experience suffering and pain? In one of his many hymns Isaac Watts posed this question:

*Am I a soldier of the cross? Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease? While others fought to win  
the prize and sailed through bloody seas*

Do you consider the suffering experienced by other believers around the world? There are some great ministries, such as [Voice of the Martyrs](#), who raise awareness, assistance, and intercession for persecuted Christians.

Read verses 9-16. How does the psalm writer emphasize that Christians suffer at the hand of our enemy, not at the hand of God?

Read verses 17-22. How does this section remind us that suffering will be our experience, even when we are in relationship with God.

Do you have a good theology of suffering? In other words, have you a good handle on what the Bible teaches us about how and why Christians may go through difficulty?

There is a third "song" or prayer, in the closing verses which asks God to...

- ➡ Arouse and awaken - vv. 23-24   ➡ Rise up and redeem - vv. 25-26

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The very fact that the psalmist searches for answers to these difficult questions suggests that God was still at work in his heart.

Read the story of the early disciples and their difficulties in representing Christ in Jerusalem – see Acts 5:40-42. How is their story reflected in what A. W. Tozer said...

*It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.*

### REFLECT

*When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls*  
Hebrews 12:3 **MESSAGE**

For further inspiration about believers who asked God why they suffered, yet also came to great peace about God's purposes in their life, read...

- The testimony of [Dr. Helen Roseveare](#)
- The story about [Osama al-Jihadi](#) (see page 4)
- The book [Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants](#) (Paul Brand, Phillip Yancey)