

Psalm 143

Psalms 143:1-2 [NIV] *“O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no-one living is righteous before you.”*

The plea of the Psalmist rests on the nature of the Creator God who is faithful to His Word and righteousness coupled with the absence of any merit on the Psalmist's part.

The Creator God has every right to assume the mantle of Judge, and the Psalmist does not deny that he deserves to be judged, but if the Creator God acts without mercy in His judgement then all hope is at an end for all humanity.

Psalms 143:3-4 [NIV] *“The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead. So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.”*

The Psalmist now pleads to his Creator God who has brought him into a tender relationship, that without God's intervention he will have **no** hope.

Psalms 143:5-6 [NIV] *“I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah.”*

The Psalmist now appeals to the Creator God's past dealings with His people. The Creator God has always satisfied all who are thirsty, [Psalms 107:9].

The longing for the Creator God's presence now pervades and gives the basis for the Psalmist's prayer.

“Selah” the Psalmist now pauses to consider what he had said and his hope is that the Creator God has also considered his plea!

Psalms 143:7-8 [NIV] *“Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit. Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”*

The Psalmist [King David] was losing hope as he comes to the end of any personal strength, and yields to the darkness of imminent death, longing for a response from the Creator God.

The Psalmist, inspite of the nearness of death, continues to trust in the love of his Creator, [Acts 7:59-60] asking to be shown God's will rather than an end to the trouble he is in.

Psalms 143:9-10 [New King James] *“Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.”*

The personal dedication to the Creator God is now the basis of the Psalmist's prayer.

Deliverance will give the Psalmist future opportunity.

Teaching will give him knowledge.

Guidance by the Holy Spirit will allow him to experience serving the Creator God according to His will.

Psalms 143:11-12 [New King James] *“Revive me, O LORD, for Your name’s sake! For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.”*

The Psalmist returns to the opening thought of the nature of the Creator God as revealed in His name, and God’s undeviating pursuit of His holy purposes, especially of salvation towards His people, [Isaiah 45:21-23] and His changeless love to those within His covenant.

The final plea from the Psalmist is the fact that he is the bond slave [Hebrew “*âbad*” a servant that is without rights only responsibilities towards his master] of the Creator God.

Every true Christian sees themselves in this relationship with the Creator God, having been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19].

Those who were leaders in the early Christian Church all introduced themselves using the Greek word “*dōulōs*” meaning bond slave, [Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1].

Such an attitude of mind is a good way to see our relationship with the Creator God.