

**June 15**

**Scriptures:** Read Psalms 143 & 144

**Key Verse:** "...Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalm 144:15)

### **Overview**

Like the previous three psalms, Psalm 143 is composed by David. Again he complains of bitter persecution from his enemies and entreats God to hear his prayer because of His faithfulness and righteousness. The God of the covenant will keep His promises about blessing the faithful. David pleads that He will not enter into judgment of him, for because of his sin, he could never hope to be justified before God, nor could anyone else. Today, however, those who have peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ have been justified and can stand before God with the righteousness of Jesus (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:1,2; Gal. 2:16).

David feels crushed by the enemy. The persecution has caused him to be full of gloom and distress as if he had already gone down in darkness to the pit. However, when he remembers, meditates, and considers the past goodness and mighty deeds of God, he realizes that he needs some of that divine power in his life to help at such a crucial point. He is given the courage to ask God for His mercy to be delivered and revived. To quench his thirsty soul, he reaches out to God and affirms his trust in Him. David's expressions show the urgency and his great need for God and for God's guidance in his life. With a beautiful and exemplary prayer he prays, "teach me to do Your will"; a prayer we all must make if God is truly our Lord, and if we, like David, desire spiritual revival and to walk in the land of uprightness (143:10).

Psalm 144 is a psalm of David that appears to be a compilation of previous works (e.g. Psalm 18). David begins by blessing the Lord for His past blessings to him and for what He is to him. God is expressed in several metaphors that show Him to be David's Strength and Protector. In contrast to God's greatness, man is small, transitory, and insignificant (144:3,4; 8:4; 39:11; 102:11; 109:23). Even so, God is concerned about us. David understood that God can be called upon to intervene and come to our aid, "Bow down Your heavens, O Lord, and come down" (144:5). The greatest example of God's coming down was with the incarnation of Jesus Christ when truly the heavenly and earthly met together in the most wonderful and unique way.

David asked for the manifestations of God's power in rescuing him from the enemy who are guilty of slandering and breaking their oaths of allegiance to him (144:8). Once delivered, David promises to create a new song in God's honour and to play upon his harp and sing His praises and offer thanksgiving. With God's complete salvation, David envisions the consequences of an ideal society that is blessed by the Lord. His sons are strong and virile, his daughters are stately and beautiful, his barns full, his cattle productive, and his city strong and peaceful. In such a state the people are happy and enjoy their material blessing. The reason for their happiness is that they are spiritually blessed since God is their Lord.

### **Prayer**

God, today we pray from our heart the prayer that David prayed, "Teach me the way in which I should walk; for to You do I lift up my soul... Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground for the sake of Your name, O Lord..."(Psalm 143:8b-11).