

PURSUING Christ TOGETHER

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The Gift of Lament

Psalms 42-43



- ¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
- ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?



³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"



⁴ These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.



Why, my soul, are you downcast?
 Why so disturbed within me?
 Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.





A Gift in the Drought (42:1-5)



A Gift in the Drought (42:1-5)

In times of spiritual dryness,
lament is the gift of crying out to God
to give us what we're dying for.





⁶ My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon from Mount Mizar.



- Deep calls to deep

 in the roar of your waterfalls;

 all your waves and breakers

 have swept over me.
- By day the Lord directs his love,
 at night his song is with me—
 a prayer to the God of my life.



9 I say to God my Rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"



10 My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me,saying to me all day long,"Where is your God?"



Why, my soul, are you downcast?Why so disturbed within me?Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.





A Gift in the Depths (42:6-11)



A Gift in the Depths (42:6-11)

When we're overwhelmed,

lament is the gift of crying out to God

to rescue us from what is too much to bear.







Wrestling with Incurable Cancer & Life in Christ

J. TODD BILLINGS

Rejoicing in Lament Wrestling with Incurable Cancer & Life in Christ

by J. Todd Billings (2015)





43:1 Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation.

Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked.



You are God my stronghold.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?



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.



Why, my soul, are you downcast?
 Why so disturbed within me?
 Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.





A Gift in the Delay (43:1-5)



A Gift in the Delay (43:1-5)

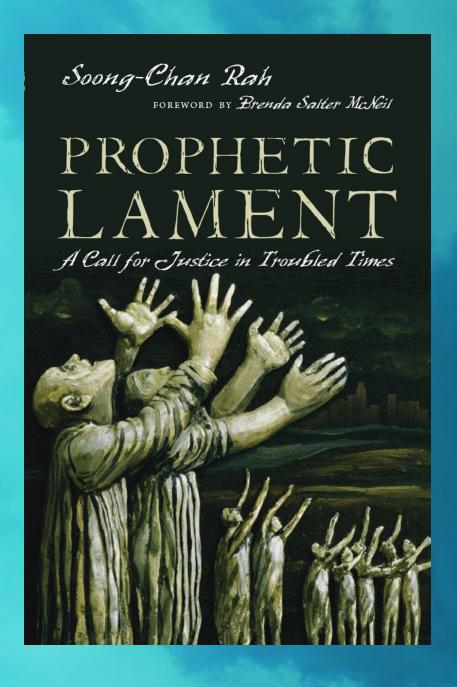
When we're waiting for deliverance,
lament is the gift of crying out to God
to remember us and keep his promises.











Prophetic Lament A Call for Justice in Troubled Times

by Soong-Chan Rah (2015)





Spiritual Practice: Examen

WHAT

A quiet, prayerful review of the past day (or week) to notice where God has been present

WHY

To become increasingly aware of and attentive to God's presence and our emotions



Spiritual Practice: Examen

Set aside 15 minutes to answer 1 pair of questions:

- When was I aware of God's presence?
 When did I feel his absence?
- For what moment am I most grateful?
 For what moment am I least grateful?
- What was the most life-giving part of my day?
 What was the most life-draining part?



Spiritual Practice: Examen

THEN

Let your Examen answers become the starting point of prayer—including lament



