

Psalm 44 (NRSV)

- ¹ We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:
² you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;
³ for not by their own sword did they win the land,
nor did their own arm give them victory;
but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance,
for you delighted in them.
⁴ You are my King and my God; you command victories for Jacob.
⁵ Through you we push down our foes;
through your name we tread down our assailants.
⁶ For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.
⁷ But you have saved us from our foes,
and have put to confusion those who hate us.
⁸ In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name for ever.
⁹ Yet you have rejected us and abased us, and have not gone out with our armies.
¹⁰ You made us turn back from the foe,
and our enemies have taken spoil for themselves.
¹¹ You have made us like sheep for slaughter, and have scattered us among the nations.
¹² You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them.
¹³ You have made us the taunt of our neighbors,
the derision and scorn of those around us.
¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the nations,
a laughing-stock among the peoples.
¹⁵ All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face
¹⁶ at the words of the taunters and revilers,
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.
¹⁷ All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten you,
or been false to your covenant.
¹⁸ Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way,
¹⁹ yet you have broken us in the haunt of jackals,
and covered us with deep darkness.

²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God, or spread out our hands to a strange god,

²¹ would not God discover this?

For he knows the secrets of the heart.

²² Because of you we are being killed all day long, and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

²³ Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not cast us off forever!

²⁴ Why do you hide your face?

Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

²⁵ For we sink down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

²⁶ Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.