

Psalm 42 in Three Modern Translations

New English Bible (1972)

42

- 1 As a hind longs for the running streams,
so do I long for thee, O God.
- 2 With my whole being I thirst for God, the living God.
When shall I come to God and appear in his presence?
- 3 Day and night, tears are my food;
‘Where is your God?’ they ask me all day long.
- 4 As I pour out my soul in distress, I call to mind
how I marched in the ranks of the great to the house of God,
among exultant shouts of praise, the clamour of the pilgrims.
- 5 How deep I am sunk in misery, groaning in my distress:
yet I will wait for God;
I will praise him continually, my deliverer, my God.
- 6 I am sunk in misery, therefore will I remember thee,
though from the Hermons and the springs of Jordan,
and from the hill of Mizar,
- 7 deep calls to deep in the roar of thy cataracts,
and all thy waves, all thy breakers, pass over me.
- 8 The LORD makes his unfailing love shine forth^a
alike by day and night;
his praise on my lips is a prayer to the God of my life.
- 9 I will say to God my rock, ‘Why hast thou forgotten me?’
Why must I go like a mourner because my foes oppress me?
- 10 My enemies taunt me, jeering^b at my misfortunes;
‘Where is your God?’ they ask me all day long.
- 11 How deep I am sunk in misery, groaning in my distress:
yet I will wait for God;
I will praise him continually, my deliverer, my God.

^a makes...forth: *or* entrusts me to his unfailing love.

^b jeering: *prob. rdg.; Heb. obscure.*

New International Verison (1978)

Psalm 42^a

- For the director of music.
A *maskil*^b of the Sons of Korah.
- 1 As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O 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 men 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 with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God,
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.
- 5 ‘Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?’
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and⁶ my God.
- My^c soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
- 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers have swept over me.
- 8 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?”
- 11 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.
- ^aIn many Hebrew manuscripts Psalms 42 and 43 constitute one psalm.
- ^bTitle: Probably a literary or musical term
- ^c5,6 A few Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *praise him for his saving help. / O my God, my*

New American Bible (revised 1991)

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- 1 ¹ ² For the leader. A maskil of the Korahites.
- 2 As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God.
- 3 ³ My being thirsts for God, the living God. When can I go and see the face of God?
- 4 My tears have been my food day and night, as they ask daily, “Where is your God?”
- 5 Those times I recall as I pour out my soul, When I went in procession with the crowd, I went with them to the house of God, Amid loud cries of thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.
- 6 Why are you downcast, my soul; why do you groan within me? Wait for God, whom I shall praise again, my savior and my God.
- 7 ⁴ My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you From the land of the Jordan and Hermon, from the land of Mount Mizar.
- 8 ⁵ Here deep calls to deep in the roar of your torrents. All your waves and breakers sweep over me.
- 9 At dawn may the LORD bestow faithful love that I may sing praise through the night, praise to the God of my life.
- 10 I say to God, “My rock, why do you forget me? Why must I go about mourning with the enemy oppressing me?”
- 11 It shatters my bones, when my adversaries reproach me. They say to me daily: “Where is your God?”
- 12 Why are you downcast, my soul, why do you groan within me? Wait for God, whom I shall praise again, my savior and my God.

Footnotes

¹ [Psalms 42-43] Psalm 42-43 form a single lament of three sections, each section ending in an identical refrain (Psalm 42:6, 11[12]; 43:5). The psalmist is in the extreme north of Israel, far from Jerusalem, and longs for the divine presence that Israel experienced in the temple liturgy. Despite sadness, the psalmist hopes once again to join the worshipping crowds.

² [1] The Korahites: a major guild of temple singers (2 Chron 20:19) whose name appears in the superscriptions of Psalm 42; 44-49; 84-85; 87-88.

³ [3] See the face of God: “face” designates a personal presence (Genesis 33:10; Exodus 10:28-29; 2 Sam 17:11). The expressions “see God/God’s face” occur elsewhere (Psalm 11:7; 17:15; 63:2; cf Exodus 24:10; 33:7-11; Job 33:26) for the presence of God in the temple.

⁴ [7] From the land of the Jordan: the sources of the Jordan are in the foothills of Mount Hermon in present-day southern Lebanon. Mount Mizar is presumed to be a mountain in the same range.

⁵ [8] Here deep calls to deep: to the psalmist, the waters arising in the north are overwhelming and far from God’s presence, like the waters of chaos (Psalm 18:5; 69:2-3, 15; Jonah 2:3-6).