

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

OUR FATHERS HAVE TOLD US

PSALMS 44

Text: Psalms 44:1

Psalm 44:1

¹ *We have heard with our ears, O God, **our fathers have told us**, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.*

Introduction:

Passing the baton is one of the crucial elements of a race.

The transfer zone is where races are won and lost.

The Psalmist communicates in the passage the great necessity of passing to the next generation the torch of truth.

Our children will only know of His power, principles, and precepts if we commit to tell them.

The Lord instructed Moses to instruct the children of Israel to teach the things that they had been told and taught to pass them onto their children.

Note:

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but **teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons:**

¹⁰ Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ **And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,** and shalt talk

of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. ¹⁰ And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, ¹¹ And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; ¹² Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deuteronomy 11:16-21

*¹⁶ Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; ¹⁷ And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you. ¹⁸ Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ **And ye shall teach them your children,** speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down,*

and when thou risest up.²⁰ And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:²¹ That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Remember

We have a duty to **remember** the past. We are not to dwell in the past but remember the past.

We have a duty to **reflect** on and educate our children of the working of God from the past.

The reasons this is so important is:

God instructs us to do this

And the danger of forgetting – “lest thou forget”

Note:

1. THE HERALDING OF GOD (VS. 1)

Psalm 44:1

¹ We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

A. Proclamation of Our Fathers – “We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us”

As we have already stated – it is imperative for one generation to tell the next generation of the goodness of God.

There are two elements involved with transferring our faith:

Those who will listen (children)

Those who will tell (the fathers or the older generation)

Note not only the Proclamation of Our Fathers but:

B. The Past of Our Fathers – “what work thou didst in their days, in the time of old.”

This generation needs a vision of God that is rooted and grounded in the faithfulness of His past work.

We need to remind our children of the past battles and past victories so that they will know what God has done before understanding that He can do it again.

Illustrations:

First Great Awakening (1734-1743)

God used Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield and it was said that at least 80% of America's 900,000 Colonists personally heard Whitfield preach

Second Great Awakening (1800-1840)

God used a man by the name of Charles Finney and he would see 500,000 people trust Christ as their Saviour.

There were an unparalleled 100,000 were converted in Rochester, N.Y., in 1831 alone—causing the revival to spread to 1,500 towns.

The Businessman Revival (1857-1858)

In 1857, the North Dutch Church in New York City hired a businessman, Jeremiah Lanphier, to be a lay missionary.

He prayed, "Lord, what would you have me do?"

Concerned by the anxious faces of businessmen on the streets of New York City, Lanphier decided to open the church at noon so businessmen could pray.

The first meeting was set for September 23—three weeks before the Bank Panic of 1857. Six attended the first week, 20 the next, then 40, then they switched to daily meetings.

Before long all the space was taken, and other churches also began to open up for businessmen's prayer meetings.

Revivals broke out everywhere in 1857, spreading throughout the United States and world. Sometimes called "The Great Prayer Meeting Revival", an estimated 1,000,000 people were added to America's church rolls, and as many as 1,000,000 of the 4,000,000 existing church members were also converted.

The Urban Revivals (1875-1885)

Young businessman Dwight L. Moody participated in the Great Revival of 1857 as it swept Chicago.

Moody later conducted revivals throughout the British Isles where he spoke to more than 2,500,000 people. In 1875, Moody returned home and began revivals in America's biggest cities. Hundreds of thousands were converted.

At this time, the general worldview of Americans was shifting away from a Christian consensus. Darwinism and higher criticism were gaining traction, and Moody became the first evangelist to come under attack—accused of making religion the crutch of the masses.

By the turn of the 20th century, the mood of the country was changing. Outside the church, it was the era of radio, movies and the “Jazz Age.” World War I led to a moral letdown and the Roaring Twenties. When that era came to an abrupt end on October 29, 1929, followed by the Great Depression, there was surprisingly little interest in spiritual revival.

Liberalism penetrated the church and the effect was that 20th-century revivals were more limited in scope, and lacked the broad impact on society of earlier awakenings.

The Revivals of 1905-1906

God used a man by the name of Billy Sunday.

He preached to more than 100,000,000 people with an estimated 1,000,000 or more conversions.

These are just a few illustrations of how God moved in the past in this nation.

We see the Heralding of God and its importance. Note secondly:

2. THE HELP OF GOD (VS. 2-3)

Psalm 44:2-3

² How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. ³ For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Note:

A. He Is a Protector (vs. 2)

Psalm 44:2

² How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out.

Remember Israel went into hostile territory under-manned and under-armed but they went under God.

God's strength and power demonstrated time and time again His ability to lead, guide and protect His people.

Not only do we see Him as a Protector but also:

B. He Is a Provider (vs. 3)

Psalm 44:3

³ For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Israel received homes they did not build, vineyards they did not plant, and wells they did not dig – all courtesy of the goodness of God.

This generation needs to understand the provision and protection of God – we must rehearse in their ears what God has done for us in days gone by.

He has been too good not to tell them over and over again.

We see the Heralding of God and its importance. Note thirdly:

3. THE HERITAGE OF GOD (VS. 4-8)

Psalm 44:4-8

⁴ Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob. ⁵ Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. ⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. ⁷ But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. ⁸ In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Notice:

A. Declaration (vs. 4)

Psalm 44:4

⁴ Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob.

When we pass our faith to the next generation it will produce boldness, not only to possess but also to proclaim.

May God give us people who will declare that God is my King.

Notice not only a Declaration but also:

B. Determination (vs. 5-6)

Psalm 44:5-6

⁵ Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. ⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.

Living in this world is not for the faint hearted believer.

This generation is to stand for the Lord.

This generation is to remind the next generation of the goodness of God so that they will know who to call upon during the conflicts of life.

Notice not only the Declaration and Determination but also:

C. Delight (vs. 7-8)

Psalm 44:7-8

⁷ But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. ⁸ In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

We are to boast and brag and lift up the Lord.

He is worthy.

Close:

Time doesn't allow us to say much more but in this same chapter verses 9-16 the story of goodness changes to a story of grief.

When we forget the goodness of God we are in danger.

Deuteronomy 8:1-20

¹ *All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.* ² *And thou shalt **remember** all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.* ³ *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.* ⁴ *Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.* ⁵ *Thou shalt also **consider** in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.* ⁶ *Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.* ⁷ *For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths*

that spring out of valleys and hills; ⁸ A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; ⁹ A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. ¹⁰ When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

¹¹ Beware that thou **forget not** the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: ¹² Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; ¹³ And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; ¹⁴ Then thine heart be lifted up, and **thou forget** the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; ¹⁶ Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; ¹⁷ And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. ¹⁸ But **thou shalt remember the LORD** thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. ¹⁹ And it shall be, **if thou do at**

all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.²⁰ As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Are we passing on to the generation following in our steps the goodness of God?