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Word Analysis Psalm 44

James Mays states that Psalm 44 is the first of the corporate prayers for help in the present arrangement of the Book of Psalms. It is a Psalm of lament and trust. According to N.T. Wright, lamenting is a form of praise; proof of a relationship with God; a pathway to intimacy with God; a prayer for God to act; and participation in the pain of others. Wright goes on to state that lament and complaint are interchangeable. In this case Psalm 44 can be considered a Psalm of praise as well as a prayer for God to act. It is also proof of a relationship they have with God. That relationship is established through text criticism. Mays states Psalm opens with a recollection of salvation history which is authenticated as the personal knowledge of the congregation gained from accounts by the fathers, the authorities on tradition in the community. My preunderstanding is that this is a Psalm for help from God. Following the recollection is a confession of faith and a statement of trust. Versus 9 thru 14 NRSV, there is a grammatical parallelism. Mays states through six poetic lines the "you" of God is the first word and subject of the verbs. Even though this Psalm is a national lament, the trust genre speaks loudly as well. Trust is found in the recalled events, in its confrontation with the nations, their identity as the Lord's servants and trust themselves to Gods saving help. They boast on the sovereign favor they had from God for dispossessing other nations to give them land. The Targums English translation is the only version that states their enemy by name in verse 3 which is the Canaanites Gentiles. After trust, the Psalm flows with humiliation, petitions, and complaints. I must conclude with the motifs and metaphors at the conclusion of the Psalm such as "why do you sleep" and "why do you hide your face"!