



To the choirmaster.

A Maskil of the Sons of Korah

1-3

The Past

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers 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 sword did they inherit the land, nor did their own arm save them, but Your right hand and Your arm, and the light of Your face, for You delighted in them.

4-8

The Future

You are **my** King, O God; ordain salvations for Jacob! ⁵ Through You **we** gore our foes; through Your name **we** trample those who rise up against **us**. 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 shame those who hate **us**. ⁸ God we praise continually, and we will give thanks to Your name forever. (Selah)

9-16

The Present

But You have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies. ¹⁰ You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil. 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 laughingstock among the peoples. ¹⁵ All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face ¹⁶ at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

משל

(*mashal*)

“parable, proverb, to rule”

17-22

All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten You, and we have not 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 place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. ²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, ²¹ would not God discover this? For He knows the secrets of the heart. ²² **Yet for Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.**

23-26

Awake! Why are You sleeping, O Lord? Rouse Yourself! Do not reject us forever! ²⁴ Why do You hide Your face? Why do You forget our affliction and oppression? ²⁵ For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. ²⁶ Rise up! Come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of Your steadfast love!

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Messiah Yeshua is the One who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Messiah? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, **“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Messiah Yeshua our Master.

REFERENCES:

Matthew 5:10-12 “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”