

Psalms 44:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The psalm begins with corporate memory: 'We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us.' Faith is transmitted through testimony, not merely personal experience. The 'work' God did 'in their days, in the times of old' refers to exodus and conquest, the foundational salvific events of Israel's history.

Historical Context

Intergenerational testimony was commanded in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 and Psalm 78. Israel's identity depended on remembering and retelling God's mighty acts, creating continuity between past redemption and present faith.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What role does hearing 'from our fathers' play in sustaining faith?
2. How can we better transmit the stories of God's faithfulness to the next generation?

Interlinear Text

לְנוּ סִפְרָו אֲבוֹתֵינוּ שְׁמֵעֲנוּ בְּאָזְנֵינוּ אֱלֹהָ יְמֵינוּ
O God with our ears We have heard our fathers have told
H430 H241 H8085 H1 H5608 H0
פָעַלְתָּ בְּיָמֵינוּ בְּיָמֵינוּ לְזִדְמָה
us what work thou didst in the times in the times of old
H6467 H6466 H3117 H3117 H6924

Additional Cross-References

Judges 6:13 (Parallel theme): And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Psalms 42:1 (References God): As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Deuteronomy 6:20 (References God): And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

Isaiah 38:19 (Parallel theme): The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Psalms 77:5 (Parallel theme): I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.

Joel 1:3 (Parallel theme): Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.