

**THE HART AND THE WATER-
BROOKS; A PRACTICAL
EXPOSITION OF THE
FORTY-SECOND PSALM**

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The Hart and the Water-Brooks; A Practical Exposition of the Forty-Second Psalm by John R. Macduff

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JOHN R. MACDUFF

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BROOKS; A PRACTICAL
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THE HART
AND
THE WATER-BROOKS;

A PRACTICAL EXPOSITION OF
THE FORTY-SECOND PSALM.

BY THE
REV. JOHN R. MACDUFF,

AUTHOR OF "MORNING AND NIGHT WATCHES," "MEMORIES OF GRINSBARY,"
"WORDS OF JESUS," ETC. ETC.

"The portion of God's Word that is specially precious to me, more so than I am able to express, is Psalm forty-second."—**HARRINGTON EVANS' LIFE**, p. 299.

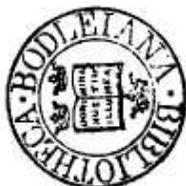
"What a precious, soul-comforting Psalm is that forty-second!"—**LIFE OF CAPTAIN HAMMOND**, p. 289.

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THE FORTY-SECOND PSALM.

¶ To the Chief Musician, MASCHIL, for the Sons of Korah.

- 1 *As the hart panteth after the water-brooks,—so panteth my soul
after thee, O God.*
- 2 *My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God :—when shall I
come and appear before God ?*
- 3 *My tears have been my meat day and night,
While they continually say unto me, Where is thy God ?*
- 4 *When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me :
For I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house
of God,
With the voice of joy and praise,—with a multitude that kept holy
day.*
- 5 *Why art thou cast down, O my soul !—and why art thou dis-
quieted in me ?
Hope thou in God : for I shall yet praise him
For the help of his countenance [or, His presence is salvation].*
- 6 *O my God, my soul is cast down within me :
Therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of
the Hermonites,
From the hill Mizar.*
- 7 *Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy water-spouts ;
All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.*
- 8 *Yet the Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day-time,
And in the night his song shall be with me,
And my prayer unto the God of my life.*
- 9 *I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me ?
Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy ?*

- 10 As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me ;
While they say daily unto me, Where is thy God ?
- 11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul !—and why art thou dis-
quieted within me ?
Hope thou in God : for I shall yet praise him,
Who is the health of my countenance, and my God. *

* The title of the Psalm (משכיל) *MASCHIL*—*instruction*,) is the same as that of other twelve. Some have referred the word merely to the music—indicating the tune to which the Psalms were set,—demanding of the sons of Korah, and “the chief musician,” (the conductors of temple-song,) some melody specially adapted to the sentiments they contain. Others, with greater probability, take it as indicative of their *design*,—that while expressive of personal feeling and experience, they were intended for the “instruction” and comfort of the Church in all ages. Hence the term given to them of *didactic*.

Though his name is not mentioned, there is little doubt that David, and not the sons of Korah, as some have supposed, was the author of this Psalm. The reader is referred to *Hengstenberg* for a statement of the internal grounds, in the Psalm itself, to favour this conclusion. “To me,” says Calvin, “it appears more probable that the sons of Korah are here mentioned because this Psalm was committed as a precious treasure to be preserved by them ;—as we know that out of the number of the singers some were chosen and appointed to be keepers of the Psalms. That there is no mention made of David’s name, does not in itself involve any difficulty, since we see the same omission in other Psalms, of which there is, notwithstanding, the strongest grounds for concluding that he was author.”

According to an arbitrary division by the Jews of their Psalter into five parts, supposed to have been made by Ezra after the return from Babylon, the Forty-second Psalm forms the commencement of the second book. Regarding its structure, we may remark, that it is divided into two portions or *strophes*, each of these closing with a refrain in verses 5 and 11.

The following is an excellent poetical paraphrase
of the Psalm, by Bishop Lowth :—

- " As pants the wearied hart for cooling springs,
That sinks exhausted in the summer's chase ;
So pants my longing soul, great King of kings !
So thirsts to reach Thy sacred dwelling-place.
- " On briny tears my famish'd soul hath fed,
While taunting foes deride my deep despair ;
' Say, where is now thy Great Deliverer fled,
Thy mighty God, deserted wanderer, where !'
- " Oft dwell my thoughts on those thrice happy days,
When to Thy fane I led the willing throng ;
Our mirth was worship, all our pleasure praise,
And festal joys still closed with sacred song.
- " Why throb, my heart ? why sink, my saddening soul,
Why droop to earth, with various foes oppress'd !
My years shall yet in blissful circles roll,
And peace be yet an inmate of this breast.
- " By Jordan's banks with devious steps I stray,
O'er Hermon's rugged rocks and deserts dear :
E'en there Thy hand shall guide my lonely way,
There Thy remembrance shall my spirit cheer.
- " In rapid floods the vernal torrents roll,
Harsh sounding cataracts responsive roar ;
Thine angry billows overwhelm my soul,
And dash my shatter'd bark from shore to shore.

- " Yet Thy sure mercies ever in my sight,
My heart shall gladden through the tedious day;
And 'midst the dark and gloomy shades of night,
To Thee I'll fondly tune the grateful lay.
- " Rock of my hope ! great Solace of my heart !
Why, why desert the offspring of Thy care,
While taunting foes thus point th' invidious dart,
' Where is thy God, abandon'd wanderer, where ?'
- " Why faint, my soul ? why doubt Jehovah's aid ?
Thy God the God of mercy still shall prove ;
Within His courts thy thanks shall yet be paid,
Unquestion'd be His pity and His love."

INTRODUCTORY.

	PAGE
I. THE SCENE OF THE PSALM,	2
II. THE GENERAL SCOPE OF THE PSALM,	10
III. A PECULIAR EXPERIENCE,	24

CONTENTS OF THE PSALM.

I. THE HART PANTING,	36
II. THE HART WOUNDED,	46
III. THE LIVING GOD,	60
IV. THE TAUNT,	78
V. THE TAUNT,	90
VI. SABBATH MEMORIES,	102
VII. HOPE,	122
VIII. THE HILL MIZAR,	141
IX. THE CLEMAX,	166
X. LESSONS,	180
XI. FAITH AND PRAYER,	192
XII. THE QUIET HAVEN,	212