

Psalm 44

Rewritten at the February 12 Living Worship Dinner

The NIV version is given first, followed by rewritten adaptation from each Princeton group.

NIV: ¹ We have heard it with our ears, O God;
our ancestors have told us
what you did in their days,
in days long ago.
² With your hand you drove out the nations
and planted our ancestors;
you crushed the peoples
and made our ancestors flourish.

Princeton: Everybody's talking and we've all heard it before, O God. Our parents and grandparents have told us the same stories over and over of what you did for them. You made room for them to succeed. Those who were against them were trampled on and our numbers multiplied.

NIV: ³ It was not by their sword that they won the land,
nor did their arm bring them victory;
it was your right hand, your arm,
and the light of your face, for you loved them.

Princeton: It was not by their cunning that they got what was promised, nor did their deceit help them along. It was your guidance, your truth and the brilliance of your blessing, for you loved them.

NIV: ⁴ You are my King and my God,
who decrees victories for Jacob.
⁵ Through you we push back our enemies;
through your name we trample our foes.

Princeton: You are our Commander in Chief, who determines victories for his people. Through Christ's authority we overcome Satan; your name destroys the influences of materialism, media, technology, and worldly views.

NIV: ⁶ I put no trust in my bow,
my sword does not bring me victory;
⁷ but you give us victory over our enemies,
you put our adversaries to shame.
⁸ In God we make our boast all day long,
and we will praise your name forever.

Princeton: We have no confidence in weapons of mass destruction nor does use of social media bring us victory. Addictions no longer have power over us. You make people who trust in these look foolish. We can brag of your control over all things all the time.

NIV: ⁹ But now you have rejected and humbled us;
you no longer go out with our armies.
¹⁰ You made us retreat before the enemy,
and our adversaries have plundered us.

Princeton: But you have turned your back on us. We cry out. We're defenseless. We are all alone in our battles. Without you, the world takes control.

NIV: ¹¹ You gave us up to be devoured like sheep
and have scattered us among the nations.
¹² You sold your people for a pittance,
gaining nothing from their sale.

Princeton: You abandoned us to be destroyed and dumped us like garbage in the ocean. You sold us out for nothing. What was the point?

NIV: ¹³ You have made us a reproach to our neighbors,
the scorn and derision of those around us.
¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the nations;
the peoples shake their heads at us.

Princeton: It seems like we have been alienated from those around us. Why does our faith make us uncool? The world has different values and they say we are small-minded, hypocrites, and exclusive. Why are we judged this way?

NIV: ¹⁵ I live in disgrace all day long,
and my face is covered with shame
¹⁶ at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me,
because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.

Princeton: From sunrise to sunset, the day drags on; my face is red with embarrassment. I just want to run and hide from those who tease and bully me. They are relentless, always looking to harm me.

NIV: ¹⁷ All this came upon us,
though we had not forgotten you;
we had not been false to your covenant.
¹⁸ Our hearts had not turned back;
our feet had not strayed from your path.
¹⁹ But you crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals;
you covered us over with deep darkness.

Princeton: All this happened through we had been faithful; we had been faithful to your promises. We did not turn our back on you; we continued to walk in your ways. But you threw us under the bus, fed us to the wolves, and buried us alive.

NIV: ²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
²¹ would not God have discovered it,
since he knows the secrets of the heart?
²² Yet for your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

Princeton: We were faithful in worship and church attendance. We gave food to the poor. We obeyed the laws of the land. We donated much for missions. You are aware of our many good deeds. Yet life is sometimes cruel – we have illnesses and hardships. People have hated us and we don't know why.

NIV: ²³ Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.
²⁴ Why do you hide your face
and forget our misery and oppression?

Princeton: Wake up, Lord! Why are you still in bed? Get moving! Do not procrastinate about our future. Why do you turn your back on us and ignore us when people beat up on us?

NIV: ²⁵ We are brought down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
²⁶ Rise up and help us;
rescue us because of your unfailing love.

Princeton: We are of low value to you so you frustrate us to humble us before you. Stir yourself to end our shame, because you love us unconditionally. So let it be.