

In Psalm 42 and 43 what made the Psalmist feel isolated are far from God?

The writer of Psalm 42 may be from the Levitical family of singers who accompanied David in exile.¹

Psalm 42 could be a prophetic in nature—looking forward to a time of tribulation for the Jews. They may be dispersed again.

J. Vernon McGee wrote:

The godly remnant of Israel, God's people, have a longing for God, as do God's people of all ages. They picture David. I think David could easily have said these words hiding in a cave overlooking a valley. He could have heard hunters and the barking of the dogs and, in a few minutes, a rustle in the bushes. David's men on guard duty became alert. There is a little spring near the opening of the cave, and soon a little deer, foaming at the mouth, his sides lathered, plunges his head into the water and takes a good deep drink. He waits a moment, listening, then he takes another drink...

...This will be especially meaningful to the remnant of Israel, but it is meaningful right now to many of God's children.²

The Jews will suffer in the tribulation; but, God will deliver them when they cry out to him.

They will be deceived by the Antichrist (Ps 43:1) who will make a covenant with them and then break it after 3 ½ years.³

The Psalmist wants God's light and truth to lead him in Psalm 43.

God will defend (43:1–2) and direct them (43:3–5) in His presence.

¹ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 360). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: Poetry (Psalms 42-89)* (electronic ed., Vol. 18, p. 16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ A biblical "week" is seven years.