

Pastor Matt Morrell  
Sunday, March 19, 2023  
Fourth Baptist Church

## A Prayer in Time of Crisis

### Psalm 44

*Psalm 44 is a template for how we might pray in our time of crisis.*

- I. God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the past (1-8)
- II. Man's \_\_\_\_\_ in the present (9-22)
  - A. Military \_\_\_\_\_ (9-16)
  - B. Moral \_\_\_\_\_ (17-22)
- III. Our \_\_\_\_\_ for the future (23-26)

After Ahaz's wicked reign, there was much work to do, and Hezekiah boldly cleaned house. Pagan altars, idols, and temples were destroyed. The bronze serpent that Moses had made in the desert (Num 21:9) was also destroyed, because the people had made it an idol (2 Kings 18:4). The temple in Jerusalem, whose doors had been nailed shut by Hezekiah's own father, was cleaned out and reopened. The Levitical priesthood was reinstated (2 Chron 29:5), and the Passover was re-instituted as a national holiday (2 Chron 30:1). Under Hezekiah's reforms, revival came to Judah.

- *Got Questions Ministries*

The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and

made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?  
- *Mark Twain*

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God ... having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith ... a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic.

- *Mayflower Compact*

But these things did not dismay them, though they did sometimes trouble them; for their desires were set on the ways of God, and to enjoy His ordinances; but they rested on His Providence and knew whom they had believed.

- *William Bradford*

The British Museum in London contains Sennacherib's cylinder in which he boasts of his campaigns. Hexagonal in shape, it contains 487 closely written lines of cuneiform text. It records eight of Sennacherib's expeditions, among them his invasion of Judah and his siege of Jerusalem. He boasts that he captured forty-six of Hezekiah's fenced cities and captured 200,150 people. Hezekiah was rightly concerned.

- *John Phillips*