

A Thirst for The Living God!

^{KJV} **Psalm 42:1** <To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah.>
*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?*

Mas-keel is a song of wisdom meant to be deeply thought about to
produce insight and skill for successfully living!

The sons of Korah were the singers David but in charge of worshipping
before the Ark.

**The song writer is deeply upset that he cannot go into the house of
The LORD and worship!**

**He is in distress and needs ministry; he needs consolation because he
misses the presence of his God!**

Today in America there are many people in distress because they fear
their rights will be taken away.

Many are thirsty for America to be great again; they want a higher
standard of living, better jobs and health care.

All these things have their place!

But I also believe even now there is a company of people who long for
the presence of God!

They want to experience the glory of God on their lives like never
before.

They want higher pay, better health care and equal justice; but deep
down inside they **long for God!**

What makes this song so moving is that the song writer couldn't get to
the temple because of his enemies—they chased, hounded and
positioned themselves between himself and the temple.

So he compares his experience with that of a deer:

*“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul longs for thee O
God.”*

Deer not only preferred to drink from brooks with moving water they would also look for brooks to hide in when being chased by a predator.

Deer are very fast runners but some **predators** had **greater lung capacity** and could run a deer to death—so the deer would run and run using his last breath to get to a brook.

The deer would run and jump in the water hoping to throw the lion off his scent. **Worship also has this kind of effect on our enemies!**

He would swim to the middle of the stream and allow the current to help him move down stream, he would often submerge under water with just the top of his nose above the water. **It's time to enter deeper waters!**

The water brooks represent life for the deer, without them being strategically placed the deer would be overcome by his enemies.

➤ So no matter where the deer wanders seeking food **he must always know** where the **water brooks** are if he is **going to survive!**

You see the devout Hebrew worshipper knew he was guaranteed to be in the presence of The LORD in the Temple!

The song writer is telling us how deep his thirst (desire) for God's presence is in his life!

ESV Psalm 63:1 A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDAH. *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

At this time in David's life he's king but he has to run from his son Absalom into the wilderness.

Notice it's **not the castle, the throne or the kingdom** that David longs for!

It's not **comfort, luxury or the beauty of Israel** that David longs for—it's the presence of God!

People today thirst for many things: fame, fortune and happiness.

But with all the wealthy, famous people who have lived and died miserable lives many have not understood:

There is a **hunger & thirst** that cannot be quenched by **money, power or possessions**—it can **only be satisfied** by having a genuine ongoing relationship with your Creator, Saviour and King—Jesus Christ!

*^{NIV} **John 6:35** Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

***John 7:37** On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.
38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'*