

1. Mark 9:2-13 (New Heart English Bible):

2. Review - Mount Hermon:

- The name Hermon is derived from a word that means sacred.
- Mount Hermon is the northern boundary of Israel.
- Mount Hermon is the geographical setting of Psalm 42/43.

3. Review – Psalm 42/43:

- At some point in the past, these psalms were connected as one.
- Share a common theme: redemption.
- Share a common refrain: Ps. 42:5, 11; Ps. 43:5.

4. Psalm 43:3 -

- The poetic verses of the Old Testament (Psalms or poetic sections of the prophets) can be challenging to translate and interpret into English.
- A tool to help with your bible studies is www.biblehub.com which shows numerous translation versions of each verse. The more variances you find in English, the more difficult the verse is to translate.
- Light and Truth – the Rabbis didn't ask 'what is light and truth?' – they asked 'WHO is light and WHO is truth?'
- The phrase "the place where you live" (NLT) should be more accurately (literally) translated as "to your tents."
 - The underlying Hebrew is plural – "your tents" (see the NHEB).

5. Midrash on Psalm 43 –

A midrash is a rabbinic explanation or elaboration of biblical verses that reveals layers of meaning that are theologically sound but are nowhere stated explicitly in scripture.

The Jewish Roots of the Transfiguration, Herbert Bessar
Bible Review, June 1998 (Vol. 14. Issue 3)

- According to Herbert Bessar¹, in Rabbinic Literature, many *midrashim* include Moses and Elijah. Many have Elijah and the Messiah. But only one that includes Moses, Elijah, and the Messiah – the midrash on Psalm 43 (see below)

¹ Basser, Herbert W. "The Jewish Roots of the Transfiguration," *Bible Review* 14, no. 3 (1998): 30, 32, 34–35.

(Ps. 43:2) "Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by my enemy?" From what did You [God] redeem our ancestors in Egypt? Was it not from the oppression of the Egyptians....

Did you not send redemption at the hands of two redeemers to that generation?
 (Ps. 105:26) "He sent Moses his servant and Aaron who he had chosen"

Send two redeemers like them to this generation (Ps. 43:3) "Send out your light and your truth; Let them lead me." "Your Light" being the Prophet Elijah...and "Your Truth" being the Messiah, son of David."

Likewise, scripture says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet (Mal. 3:23) ...
 The second redeemer in the verse (Is. 42:1) "Behold my servant who I have chosen."

Hence, "Send out your Light and your Truth."²

Psalm 43/ Midrash on Psalm 43	Transfiguration
- Moses, Elijah, Messiah	- Moses, Elijah, Messiah
- Mt. Hermon	- Mt. Hermon
- Redemption	- Redemption
- Elijah	- Elijah – Mark 9:11
- Isaiah 42:1	- Isaiah 42:1
- 'to your tents'	- Peter's question about 'tents.'
- "salvations of my countenance."	- Yasha = salvation

- The name Jesus combines Ya (God) and Yasha (salvation) and means 'Yah will save' or 'Yah saves.'³
- Jesus, through his words and actions, and the New Testament writers like to connect to Old Testament texts (like Ps. 42/3) that contain the word salvation and the idea of God's redemption.

6. What can we understand?

- The generation of Jesus' day wanted redemption from the oppressors.
- By identifying Jesus as the "truth" in Psalm 43, the first-century audience understands that Jesus is God's Messiah who provides redemption.

² Braude, William 1959. *The Midrash on Psalms*, New Haven: Yale University Press, p.445, accessed through <https://archive.org/details/midrashonpsalms000unse/page/444/mode/2up>

³ <https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Jesus.html>