

## ***Psalm 102***

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- This Psalm is a combination of things: it is a prayer of supplication, it's a Psalm of penitence, of humility and brokenness, and it's a Messianic Psalm.
- We're introduced to this Psalm as a prayer of the afflicted; God has a very soft place in His heart for the afflicted, the down trodden, for widows, orphans, and strangers.

**Psalm 22:24** “For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from Him; but when He cried to Him, He heard.”

**Psalm 106:44** “Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry;”

**James 1:27** “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

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V: 1-2 A frequent prayer of those who look to God.

**Psalm 61:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. <sup>2</sup>From the end of the earth will I cry unto You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

- Do not hide your face from me - this speaks to the hidden face of God.

**Isaiah 59:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

- So the Psalmist is calling upon the Lord to hear:

**Psalm 34:15** “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.”

- Do these verses contradict? Not at all, they just point out the difference between the non-believer, those separated from God because of sin; and the righteous, those who have dealt with their sin in a biblical way on God's terms.
- Meaning they've confessed their sins, forsaken their sin, repented of them and embraced Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

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V: 3-4 “*My days*” - my life is short, I don't have a lot of time.

**James 4:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>Whereas you don’t know what tomorrow will bring. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

- Our lives are like a wisp of smoke, or as a blade of grass that just withers away.

**1 Peter 1:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup>but the Word of the Lord endures forever.”

- My heart is stricken, smitten - heart broken to the point of not eating.

V: 5 In my anguish I have no strength. My bones cling to my skin meaning there are no muscles in between, I’m just so weakened, in my misery my strength has failed.

This reminds me of what Jesus went through:

**Psalm 22:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.”

V: 6-7 He compares himself to three birds, a pelican, and owl, and a sparrow - all unclean birds.

- Pelicans don’t live in the wilderness, owls don’t live in the desert, and sparrows don’t live alone - he’s saying that nothing is as it should be, I’m all messed up!

V: 8-11 He is reproached and cursed by his enemies he’s eating the bread of affliction.

- This might be the biblical precedent for country music...

*“You put ashes in my bread.... and a tear in my beer...”*

- Ashes were what they would put upon themselves as a sign of grief and mourning, not unlike repenting in sackcloth and ashes, their drink mingled with their tears.
- <sup>11</sup>Then again that description of his life being short, his days like a shadow that fades away, like at the end of the day shadows grow longer just before it gets dark, also like the grass that withers and fades.
- Now comes the contrast in V: 12

V: 12-14 “But” - “You oh Lord endure forever...” Change in focus.

- Mortal man is finite, whereas God is eternal, infinite.

**Isaiah 40:28** “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”

- Even though the Psalmist is going through a difficult trial, he has the wherewithal to call upon the name of the Lord. He seeks the Lord in the midst of it.
- He’s looking to the Lord for His favor. There are certainly those in our world who hate Israel, that endlessly plot against Israel.
- But at the same time there are those who love Israel and even take pleasure in her stones and dust!

V: 15-16 The heathen, the nations, meaning the Gentiles will fear the name of the Lord, being part of His plan of salvation.

**Isaiah 42:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles. <sup>7</sup>To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”

- At some point the kings of the Earth will fear the glory of the Lord, they will see it.
- When Jesus returns in His glory all the nations and the people will fear Him.

V: 17 This is being written to future generations, not unlike the prayer of Nehemiah:

**Nehemiah 1:6** “Please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned.”

**Psalm 34:17** “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

V: 18 This is written for as yet a future generation, for a future group of people that would praise the Lord - quite possibly the church itself.

**Psalm 61:5** “For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.”

V: 19-21 God sees the suffering and the travail, He hears the groaning and the prayer of His children.

**Romans 8:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. <sup>23</sup>Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”

- Still looking toward that future time of deliverance.

**Psalms 79:11** “Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; according to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are appointed to die.”

- Speaking of eternal death, being delivered to eternal life through the shed blood of Jesus.

V: 22 The name being declared being that of Jesus, Yeshua - His name and His praise being declared in Jerusalem - that of course being a yet future time, after His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**Isaiah 60:3** “The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

**Romans 11:25** describes the “fullness of the Gentiles” speaking of the church age - a distinct period in time, the church age which will give way to the time of Jacob’s trouble, the great tribulation, which will give way to the millennial kingdom - when all will worship Him.

V: 23-24 It is good for us to use our time on Earth well, we’re not guaranteed tomorrow. Here the psalmist is concerned about being cut off early, also drawing the contrast again between finite man and infinite God.

V: 25-27 This directly parallels **Hebrews 1:10-12** wherein it describes Jesus as the Messianic fulfillment of the prophetic scripture.

**Hebrews 1:10-12** “<sup>10</sup>And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the Earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. <sup>11</sup>They will perish, but You remain: and they will all grow old like a garment: <sup>12</sup>Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

- God laid the foundations of the earth, He put the stars in their place - and to us they all seem so permanent - but one day they will dissolve and God will still remain.

**Psalm 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

- God is “immutable” He is un-changing, He is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting!

**Hebrews 13:8** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

V: 28 A legacy in the Lord, a spiritual heritage.

**3 John 4** “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

- The Psalmist starts out crying out to God, and here he ends up declaring that not only will God preserve him, but his children, his legacy as well.
- Expressing his confidence in the Lord.

**Psalm 38:15** “For in You, O Lord, I hope: You will hear, O Lord my God.”

- Most people face the certainty of death in un-certain ways. Un-prepared to meet their maker on His terms.
- Having lived life on their own terms, many think that they can dictate to God in the end, only to discover that God has indeed established a righteous standard in His Son.
- While many face this with uncertainty, as believers we can face the very same situation with confidence, knowing that we’ve yielded to Him, taken Him at His Word, and walked by the faith that He’s required of us.

Like Paul:

**2 Timothy 4:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>... the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

- What is the faith?