

PSALM 102 – A Prayer of the Afflicted, When He is Overwhelmed and Pours Out His Complaint Before the LORD.

1/23/21 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! –Thomas Chisholm – William Runyan (2:49)

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!*

PSALM 102 – Do Not Hide Your Face from Me - A Prayer of the Afflicted, When He is Overwhelmed and Pours Out His Complaint Before the LORD.

Psa 102:1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, And let my cry come to You.

Psa 102:2 Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

- This is sort of the expression of all of our hearts when we are desperate in prayer and when things are really going bad. Here the psalmist is calling, “*answer me speedily*”
- When God is calling upon us we want all kinds of leeway and all kinds of patience on His part? “I’ll get around to it Lord, just give me time”. But when we call on Him we want instant answers. When I’m in trouble listen to me, answer me speedily.

Psa 102:3 For my days are consumed like smoke, And my bones are burned like a hearth.

- He gets into very picturesque kind of speech here. They vanish as smoke.

Psa 102:4 My heart is stricken and withered like grass, So that I forget to eat my bread.

Psa 102:5 Because of the sound of my groaning My bones cling to my skin.

- So desperate that I forget to eat my bread, so overwhelmed by my problems that I have lost my appetite. Skin and bones – My bones cling to my skin

Psa 102:6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.

Psa 102:7 I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

- Then he picks out three birds, demonstrating his aloneness! A pelican in the wilderness! Like an owl of the desert or in the deserted places where the owls inhabited the ruins of the deserted places. The sparrow alone on the rooftop.

Psa 102:8 My enemies reproach me all day long; Those who deride me swear an oath against me.

- They are trying to put curses upon him!

Psa 102:9 For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping,

- The grief, the ashes, I eat them with my bread and I mingle my drink with my tears.

Psa 102:10 Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; For You have lifted me up and cast me away.

Psa 102:11 My days are like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass.

- The sundial, as the day begins to die the shadow lengthens. My days, it seems are like the shadow, it's declining, it's going down.
- Now, here I am in this state of decay, passing away, pining away!

Yet, in contrast, - But You, O LORD!

Psa 102:12 But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations.

- The psalmist is going through a heavy trial, going through this great time of persecution calls upon the Lord. He's aware of his own frailty and his weaknesses and yet as he looks at God he sees that tower of strength of God enduring forever.

Psa 102:13 You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.

Psa 102:14 For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust.

- It is thought to be a psalm of the time of Daniel, the time of Babylonian captivity. The psalmist is actually talking about the miserable conditions in Babylon and praying for that day of restoration to the land of Israel that they would be able to go back.
- However, the psalm actually goes beyond that. It comes to the end of the age because the Lord did not appear in glory when Israel returned from the Babylonian captivity. The Lord will return in glory when Zion is built up, which God is doing at the present time.
- It is always a thrilling thing in traveling to Israel, to hear the Jewish guides talk of Jerusalem. The stones around Jerusalem, the dust, there's just a love, a great feeling of emotion that they have concerning the land and their being there in the land.
- — ***Psalm 102:13, 14*** - (Spurgeon's Morning and Evening)
- "A selfish man in trouble is exceedingly hard to comfort, because the springs of his comfort entirely within himself, and when he is sad all his springs are dry.
- But a large-hearted man full of Christian philanthropy, has other springs from which to supply himself with comfort beside those which lie within.
- He can go to his God first of all, and there find abundant help; and he can discover arguments for consolation in things relating to the world at large, to his country, and, above all, to the church.
- David in this Psalm was exceedingly sorrowful; he wrote, "I am like an owl of the desert, I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top."
- The only way in which he could comfort himself, was in the reflection that God would arise, and have mercy upon Zion: though he was sad, yet Zion should prosper; however low his own estate, yet Zion should arise.
- Christian man! learn to comfort thyself in God's gracious dealing towards the church. That which is so dear to thy Master, should it not be dear above all else to thee?
- What though thy way be dark, canst thou not gladden thine heart with the triumphs of His cross and the spread of His truth?
- Our own personal troubles are forgotten while we look, not only upon what God has done, and is doing for Zion, but on the glorious things He will yet do for His church.
- Try this receipt, O believer, whenever thou art sad of heart and in heaviness of spirit:
- forget thyself and thy little concerns, and seek the welfare and prosperity of Zion.
- When thou bendest thy knee in prayer to God, limit not thy petition to the narrow circle of thine own life, tried though it be,
- but send out thy longing prayers for the church's prosperity, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," and thine own soul shall be refreshed."

Psa 102:15 So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory.

Psa 102:16 For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.

- Look at Israel today and see the transformation that has taken place in that land in the last fifty years. The transformations that have taken place are nothing short of miraculous. The promises of God are being fulfilled. Ezekiel thirty-six, God promised the mountains of Israel would again be inhabited and they would be covered with trees and the valley's will be filled with corn and wheat and that has happened in the last fifty years. God promised in Ezekiel thirty-seven that the people would be brought back into the land and they are made a nation again. That has happened in the last fifty years.

Psa 102:17 He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer.

Psa 102:18 This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

- The psalmist is writing these things for the generation to come.
- The generation that was there at the time he wrote really did not see or did they know just exactly what the psalmist was referring to. This generation in which we live and in which God is building up Zion, this was written for us so that we would know the coming of the Lord is at the door.

Psa 102:19 For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth,

- "The eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the entire earth."

Psa 102:20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death,

Psa 102:21 To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem,

- This is really a reference to us. Prisoners, as we were, held by Satan's power. Paul said, "That we might take them from the captivity of the enemy who has taken them captive against their wills". "Appointed to death;" God in His righteous judgement had passed upon us the sentence of death because of our sins.
- He goes on to declare the problems. The name of course is Yeshua, Jesus, who is our Savior!

Psa 102:22 When the peoples are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

- This is in the kingdom age. This is after the Lord comes in his glory.

Psa 102:23 He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.

- The psalmist was going through a hard time physically. He was still rather young in that he is asking the Lord not to cut him off in the midst of his days. He prayed that God would not take him away in the midst of his days and in contrast to my short span here on earth "God endures forever". This contrast of my limited time and the eternal.
- It is wise for me to use what time I have for eternal good. Take advantage of the opportunities that God gives me now to lay up eternal treasures. Jesus said, "Don't lay up for yourself treasures on earth but rather treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is there will your heart be also".

Psa 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

- I consider the heavens the work of thy fingers. The moon and the stars that thou hast ordained.

Psa 102:26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed.

Psa 102:27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

- The eternal God!

Psa 102:28 The children of Your servants will continue, And their descendants will be established before You."

- The psalmist begins with this prayer, he speaks of his distress and he goes into this interesting

prophecy concerning the coming of the Lord as he builds up Zion. Then he muses on the eternal nature of God, the unchanging character of God.

THE HOLY CITY – George Beverly Shea

Last night I lay a sleeping There came a dream so fair, I stood in old Jerusalem Beside the temple there. I heard the children singing And ever as they sang, Me thought the voice of Angels From Heaven in answer rang! Me thought the voice of Angels From Heaven in answer rang!

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to your King!"

And then me thought my dream was changed New earth there seem'd to be, I saw the Holy City Beside the tideless sea. The light of God was on its streets The gates were open wide, And all who would might enter And no one was denied.

No need of moon or stars by night, Or sun to shine by day, It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away. It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away.

"Jerusalem! Jerusalem Sing for the night is o'er Hosanna in the highest Hosanna for evermore! Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna for evermore!"

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!