

Psalm 102

English Standard Version

***A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint
and pours out his complaint before
the LORD.***

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry come to you!

² Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress!

Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call!

³ For my days pass away like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴ My heart is struck down like grass and has
withered;

I forget to eat my bread.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning
my bones cling to my flesh.

⁶ I am like a desert owl of the wilderness,
like an owl of the waste places;

⁷ I lie awake;
I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.

⁸ All the day my enemies taunt me;
those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes like bread
and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰ because of your indignation and anger;
for you have taken me up and thrown me down.

¹¹ My days are like an evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.

¹² But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;
you are remembered throughout all generations.

¹³ You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it is the time to favor her;
the appointed time has come.

¹⁴ For your servants hold her stones dear
and have pity on her dust.

¹⁵ Nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your
glory.

¹⁶ For the Lord builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory;

¹⁷ he regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.

¹⁸ Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise
the Lord:

¹⁹ that he looked down from his holy height;
from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,

²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die,

²¹ that they may declare in Zion the name of
the Lord,

and in Jerusalem his praise,
²² when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.

²³ He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.

²⁴ “O my God,” I say, “take me not away
in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure
throughout all generations!”

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will
pass away,

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no
end.

²⁸ The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)