



Psalm 102

1/16/22 PM

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CIRCLING GLOOM

Introduction:

Superscription: "A Prayer of the Afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD."

"This is a patriot's lament over his country's distress." (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

I. THE PESSIMIST'S GLOOMY SITUATION (vs. 1-11)

A. My Endurance is All Gone (vs. 1-7)

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD! And let my cry for help come to You. ² Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; incline Your ear to me; in the day when I call answer me quickly. ³ For my days have been consumed in smoke, and my bones have been scorched like a hearth. ⁴ My heart has been smitten like grass and has withered away, indeed, I forget to eat my bread. ⁵ Because of the loudness of my groaning my bones cling to my flesh. ⁶ I resemble a pelican of the wilderness; I have become like an owl of the waste places. ⁷ I lie awake, I have become like a lonely bird on a housetop.

" Claiming a right to health or anything else may seem spiritual. It may be described as a proof of strong faith by faith healers. But it is not spiritual at all. It is actually a proof of worldliness or secular thinking in the church.... We are preoccupied with health issues because we are preoccupied with ourselves.... Perfect health is not a right, and ill health is often as much a gift from God as wholeness."
 – James Montgomery Boice

B. My Enemies are Too Strong (vs. 8-11)

⁸ My enemies have reproached me all day long; those who deride me have used my name as a curse. ⁹ For I have eaten ashes like bread and mingled my drink with weeping ¹⁰ because of Your indignation and Your wrath, for You have lifted me up and cast me away. ¹¹ My days are like a lengthened shadow, and I wither away like grass.

II. THE OPTIMIST'S GOLDEN SUNBEAM (vs. 12-22)

A. God Will Remember Zion (vs. 12-17)

¹² But You, O LORD, abide forever, and Your name to all generations. ¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion; for it is time to be gracious to her, for the appointed time has come. ¹⁴ Surely Your servants find pleasure in her stones and feel pity for her dust. ¹⁵ So the nations will fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Your glory. ¹⁶ For the LORD has built up Zion; He has appeared in His glory. ¹⁷ He has regarded the prayer of the destitute and has not despised their prayer.

Nehemiah 4:1-3
Isaiah 40:1-2

Note the emphasis on God's attributes:
God's eternity (vs. 12)
God's pity (vs. 13-14)
God's sovereignty (vs. 15)
God's glory (vs. 16)
God's faithfulness (vs. 17)

B. God Will Rebuild Zion (vs. 18-22)

¹⁸This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD. ¹⁹For He looked down from His holy height; from heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth, ²⁰to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to set free those who were doomed to death, ²¹that men may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem, ²²When the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

More of God's attributes:
God's immutability (vs. 18)
God's sensitivity (vs. 19-20)
God's name (vs. 21-22)

“when the peoples are gathered together, *and the kingdoms...*” (Isaiah 2:2-3)

III. THE REALIST'S GRAY SKY (vs. 23-28)

A. My Fears Remain (vs. 23-24)

²³He has weakened my strength in the way He has shortened my days. ²⁴I say, “O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Your years are throughout all generations.”

B. My Faith is Reassured (vs. 25-28)

²⁵“Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end. ²⁸The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.”

Hebrew 1:10-12
Colossians 1:16-17

Conclusion:

- 1) Never hesitate to cry out to the Lord in your distress (vs. 1-2).
- 2) Know that God is drawing you closer to Himself when you suffer (vs. 3-11).
- 3) Be assured that the everlasting God delivers those who belong to Him (vs. 12-22).
- 4) The greatest comfort of all is the unchanging nature of our sovereign God (vs. 23-28).