

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

1thewPsalm 102

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Psalm 102.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined>. Commands are double-underlined>. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Prayer of an Afflicted Man for Mercy on Himself and on Zion.

A Prayer of the Afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the Lord.

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.

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.

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

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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.

18 This will be written for the generation to come,

That a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.

19 For He looked down

from His holy height;

From heaven the Lord gazed upon the earth,

20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner,

To set free those who were doomed to death,

21 That men may tell of the name of the Lord in Zion

And His praise in Jerusalem,

22 When the peoples are gathered together,

And the kingdoms,

to serve the Lord.

23 He has weakened my strength in the way;

He has shortened my days.

24 I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days,

Your years are throughout all generations.

25 "Of old You founded the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

26 "Even 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.

27 "But You are the same,

And Your years will not come to an end.

28 "The children of Your servants will continue,

And their descendants will be established before You."

1. What type of Psalm is Psalm 102? What aspects of this Psalm lead you to this conclusion?

2. What do you learn from the Superscription of this Psalm?

3. What are some of the common elements of Hebrew poetry that might be helpful to look for when reading the Psalms? How are these elements used?

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4. Do we know anything about the context in which this Psalm was written?
It may have originated during the exile as alluded to in the content about Zion.

5. Take note of the pronouns in this Psalm. Do you notice any patterns? What might these reveal?

6. Break the Psalm into sections and give them titles based on the content in each. What titles did you come up with and why?

7. Notice the appeals being made to the Lord in the first two verses. How many are there? Why might there be so much overlap in the language/ideas?

8. If God is spirit and therefore does not have a physical body, what does the psalmist mean when referring to God's face and ear in verse 2?

❖ Day 2

Read Psalm 102 again.

9. What is verse 3 symbolizing? Why use this kind of language?

10. How does the psalmist resemble a pelican or owl? What is being drawn out in this comparison?

11. Why do the enemies of the psalmist disapprove and ridicule him?

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12. What is the nature of the contrast in verse 12? What is being contrasted?

13. What is the function of this contrast? Why does the Psalmist choose to make this contrast at this point in the Psalm?

14. What is the meaning of verse 14?

15. What is the significance of Zion as a place? What other passage of scripture might you point to support your answer?

16. What do you learn about the character of God from this Psalm?

❖ Day 3

Read Psalm 102 again.

17. How is the Psalm anticipating things yet to come?

18. How does the psalmist describe himself in verse 23? What is the author getting at?

19. How does the psalmist contrast God with himself and creation in the final handful of verses in the psalm?

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20. Why might he make these contrasts? What does this contrast accomplish?

21. What is the immutability of God, and how can it be found in these verses?

22. What does the immutability of God have to do with the present trials and content of the Psalm in general? Why bring up this attribute of God here in these final verses?

23. How does the immutability of God inform the way you should live? Respond to trials? Lament?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that you would trust in God's unchanging nature. Pray with thankfulness and hope in the eternal God who reigns over all of time.