

Evening Sermon Outline – May 9, 2021
Psalm 102 “Pain Driven Patriotic Prayer”

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

Not David -

I. This prayer is driven by personal pain, illness –

1. It is a prayer first for God’s hearing, for answered prayer -

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD, And let my cry come to You. 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. Psalm 102:1-2

2. It is a prayer from pain, illness, near death, loneliness –

A. He is aging or dying FAST, perhaps the heat is a fever?

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

Smoke is not an enduring thing, it even lacks the heat that once was fire, so this man sees his life, disappearing, like smoke ...

B. His heart is not right, he is not eating -

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

C. Does anyone know this? Sound of groaning causing bones to cling to skin? Is this starvation?

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

Verse 5.—“My bones cleave to my skin.” When the bones cleave to the skin, both are near cleaving to the dust.—Joseph Caryl.

D. His comparing himself to various birds seems to indicate he is out of place, away from home, and alone ... at least as far as friends are concerned -

⁶ I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. ⁷ I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. Psalm 102:6-7

Verse 7.—“Alone.” But little do men perceive what solitude is, and how far it extends; for a crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal where there is no love.—Francis Bacon.

II. This prayer, driven by pain, is also driven by persecution –

A. Friends were far, but enemies were near, always -

⁸ My enemies reproach me all day long; Psalm 102:8 A

B. His friends did not care, but his enemies have sworn an oath against him -

... Those who deride me swear an oath against me. Psalm 102:8

In this the psalmist is similar to the Apostle Paul –

¹² And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. Acts 23:12 (NKJV)

III. This prayer is also driven by a lack of food, and a sad drink, and by the knowledge that God is in control -

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 shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass. Psalm 102:9-11

1. Eating ashes, drinking tears

2. Because of God’s wrath / in exile, likely Babylon

3. Dying, well aware of the shortness of life

Because of sin this man is cast away. Because of sin he feels great pain. Yet, there seems to be repentance. This man’s prayer is noticed by God to the point it is memorialized in Scripture.

God lifts us all up, as we are created in His image, to honor and glorify Him, and so often are lives fall short of this. God casts us away and many times what might be regained by repentance, is little in this life -

IV. *In the midst of this pain, this prayer turns to praise and patriotic prayer for revival in Zion –*

1. *The Psalmist praises God for His eternal endurance -*

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

2. *He is confident God will be merciful to Zion and revive her again, answering His prayer for future generations –*

¹³ You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. ¹⁴ For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. ¹⁵ So the nations shall fear the Name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. ¹⁶ For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. ¹⁷ He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer. Psalm 102:13-17

Verse 13.—“*The set time.*” There is a certain set time for God’s great actions. He lets the powers of darkness have their hour, and God will take his hour. He hath a set time for the discovery of his mercy, and he will not stay a jot beyond it. What is this time? verse 9, etc. When they “eat ashes like bread, and mingle their drink with weeping;” when they are most humble, and when the servants of God have moral affection to the church; when their humble and ardent affections are strong, even to the ruin and rubbish of it; when they have a mighty desire and longing for the reparation of it, as the Jews in captivity had for the very dust of the temple: verse 14: “For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.” “*For*” there notes it to be a reason why the set time was judged by them to be come. That is God’s set time when the church is most believing, most humble, most affectionate to God’s interest in it, and most sincere. Without faith we are not fit to desire mercy, without humility we are not fit to receive it, without affection we are not fit to value it, without sincerity we are not fit to improve it. Times of extremity contribute to the growth and exercise of these qualifications.—*Stephen Charnock.*

This quotation reminded me of Isaiah 3:16 – Isaiah 4:2, in this passage the haughty women are humbled and are made to desire the LORD!

V. *He is confident that what he writes will be read by future generations, who will praise God, Who endures even beyond the seeming old age of the Heavens -*

1. *His prayer looks beyond himself to future generations - :18*

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

2. *His prayer recounts answers to prayer even if his personal prayer is not answered - :19 - :21*

¹⁹ For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth, ²⁰ To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death, ²¹ To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem, Psalm 102:19-21

3. *His Psalm foresees kingdoms (Gentiles) serving the LORD - :22*

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

4. *His life was weakened, shortened by the LORD, seemingly despite His prayers - :23-24*

²³ He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days. ²⁴ I said, “O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations. Psalm 102:23-24

See also 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

5. *He sees, that like himself, even the heavens do not endure forever - :25-26*

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 endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. Psalm 102:25- 26

6. *But he praises God Who is eternal –*

²⁷ But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. Psalm 102:25- 26

7. *He takes comfort in the fact of a future for God’s people.*

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