

Psalm 102

A Prayer of the Afflicted, Reassuring Himself in Yahweh's Eternal Compassion for Zion

(A Prayer of the Afflicted, when he is faint, and pours out his complaint) (before the LORD.)

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A1 THE PSALMIST'S PLEA FOR YAHWEH'S QUICK RESPONSE ¹ 102:1-2

B1 Heed My Prayer! 102:1

C1 {1} Hear my prayer, O LORD!

C2 And let my cry for help come to You.

B2 Please Don't Hide from Me! {2} Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; 102:2a

B3 Please Respond Quickly! 102:2b

C1 Incline Your ear to me;

C2 In the day when I call answer me quickly.

A2 THE PSALMIST'S CRUSHING MALAISE 102:3-11

B1 The Symptoms of His Malaise 102:3-7

C1 Feeling as if Ravaged by Fire 102:3

D1 Perpetually burning: {3} For my days have been consumed in smoke,

D2 Body wracked with pain: And my bones have been scorched like a hearth.

C2 Emotionally Devastated: {4} My heart has been smitten like grass and has withered away, 102:4a

C3 Failed Appetite: Indeed, I forget to eat my bread. 102:4b

C4 Groaning and Emaciated 102:5

D1 {5} Because of the loudness of my groaning

D2 My bones cling to my flesh.

¹ 102:1 - Heading: The four main headings for this psalm given by Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*: Answer Me Quickly (1-2); I Wither Away (3-11); He Will Not Despise the Destitute (12-22); Your Years Will Never End (23-28).

C5 Feeling Solitary and Rejected 102:6--7

D1 Isolated: {6} I resemble a pelican of the wilderness; 102:6a

D2 Worthless: I have become like an owl of the waste places. 102:6b

D3 Sleeplessly Lonely: {7} I lie awake, I have become like a lonely bird on a housetop. 102:7

B2 The Causes of His Malaise 102:8-11

C1 The Reproach of His Enemies 102:8-9

D1 Their abuse 102:8

E1 Ceaseless reproach: {8} My enemies have reproached me all day long;

E2 Blpheming his name: Those who deride me have used my *name* as a curse.

D2 His response 102:9

E1 "Official" mourning: {9} For I have eaten ashes like bread²

E2 Ceaseless weeping: And mingled my drink with weeping.³

C2 The Indignation of Yahweh 102:10

D1 Yahweh's displeasure: {10} Because of Your indignation and Your wrath,

D2 Yahweh's discarding: For You have lifted me up and cast me away.

C3 The Mortality of the Psalmist 102:11

D1 Approaching twilight: {11} My days are like a lengthened shadow,

D2 Wasting away: And I wither away like grass.

² 102:9 - eaten ashes like bread: ashes on one's head is an official, even if private, sign of one's mourning. Ashes represent a conscious decision to mourn in such a way that others know one is in mourning (see 2 Sam. 13:9). Eating ashes conveys a continual wearing of ashes -- the ashes become a steady diet, even as bread (see Isa. 44:20; see Ross, *TBKC*).

³ 102:9 - mingled my drink with weeping: "Mourning and weeping were so continuous that they were like his daily diet." (Ross, *Psalms, TBKC*)

A3 THE PSALMIST'S ASSURANCE OF YAHWEH'S ETERNAL COMPASSION FOR ZION 102:12-22

B1 The Assurance of Yahweh's Eternal Compassion for Zion 102:12-14

C1 The Eternity of Yahweh 102:12

D1 {12} But You, O LORD, abide forever,

D2 And Your name to all generations.

C2 The Compassion of Yahweh 102:13

D1 The assurance of compassion: {13} You will arise *and* have compassion on Zion;

D2 The time for compassion

E1 For it is time to be gracious to her,

E2 For the appointed time has come.

C3 The Example of Yahweh's Servants 102:14

D1 {14} Surely Your servants ⁴ find pleasure in her stones

D2 And feel pity for her dust.

B2 The Effect of Yahweh's Compassion for Zion 102:15-17

C1 The Result: International Worship of Yahweh 102:15

D1 By the nations: {15} So the nations will fear the name of the LORD

D2 By all kings: And all the kings of the earth Your glory.

C2 The Cause: Yahweh's Glorious Restoration of Zion 102:16

D1 His activity: {16} For the LORD has built up Zion;

D2 His glory: He has appeared in His glory.

C3 The Means: Yahweh's Regard for the Prayer of the Destitute 102:17

D1 {17} He has regarded the prayer of the destitute

D2 And has not despised their prayer.

⁴ 102:14 - servants: An argument from the lesser to the greater -- if even Yahweh's servants find pleasure in the stones and feel pity for the dust of Zion, surely Yahweh will feel the same in an infinitely greater capacity.

B3 The Commemoration of Yahweh's Compassion for Zion 102:18-22

C1 The Objective of the Commemoration 102:18

D1 The target of the writing: {18} This will be written for the generation to come,

D2 The purpose of the writing: That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

C2 The Content of the Commemoration 102:19

D1 Yahweh's condescension 102:19

E1 {19} For He looked down from His holy height;

E2 From heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth,

D2 Yahweh's sympathy 102:20

E1 Listening to the prisoner: {20} To hear the groaning of the prisoner,

E2 Freeing the doomed: To set free those who were doomed to death,

C3 The Result of the Commemoration 102:21-22

D1 Praising Yahweh! 102:21

E1 In Zion: {21} That *men* may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion

E2 In Jerusalem: And His praise in Jerusalem,

D2 Serving Yahweh in His world-wide kingdom! 102:22

E1 {22} When the peoples are gathered together,

E2 And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

A4 THE PSALMIST'S RELIANCE ON ELOHIM'S UNCHANGING ETERNITY 102:23-28

B1 The Psalmist's Concern over His Brief Life 102:23-24

C1 His Lament at Yahweh's Shortening of His Life 102:23

D1 Weakening his strength: {23} He has weakened my strength in the way;

D2 Shortening his days: He has shortened my days.

- C2 His Plea to Elohim Not to Abbreviate His Life 102:24
 - D1 His plea for extension: {24} I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days,
 - D2 His recognition of Elohim's timelessness: Your years are throughout all generations.

B2 His Reliance on Elohim's Eternal Immutability 102:25-28

- C1 Elohim's Ancient Creation of the Earth and Heavens 102:25
 - D1 {25} "Of old You founded the earth,
 - D2 And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
- C2 Elohim's Enduring Eternity in Contrast with the Decaying Universe 102:26
 - D1 The contrast stated: {26} "Even they will perish, but You endure;
 - D2 The decay of the universe illustrated
 - E1 And all of them will wear out like a garment;
 - E2 Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
- C3 Elohim's Immutable Eternity 102:27
 - D1 His immutability: {27} "But You are the same,
 - D2 His eternity: And Your years will not come to an end.
- C4 The Eternity of Elohim's Servants! 102:28
 - D1 Their continuity: {28} "The children ⁵ of Your servants will continue,
 - D2 Their establishment: And their descendants will be established ⁶ before You."

⁵ 102:28 - children: Heb. sons

⁶ 102:28 - descendants ... established: Since Yahweh is eternal, those humans who serve Him will live eternally also!

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 102

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Condensed Outline of Psalm 102

Based on the Expanded Analysis of Psalm 102

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