

# Psalm 102

**In this Psalm an anonymous sufferer brings his grief to the Creator God, but the comfort he receives is not that of direct relief, but it comes to him as he contemplates the changelessness of the Creator God in His dealings with humanity as a whole.**

Within the Creator God's purpose for humanity is such grief as the Psalmist now endures but that the Creator God will never let His people be alone, without His support.

**Psalms 102:1-11** [New King James] *“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come to You. 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. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth. My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my groaning My bones cling to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I lie awake, and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. My enemies reproach me all day long; those who deride me swear an oath against me. For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, because of Your indignation and Your wrath; for You have lifted me up and cast me away. My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass.”*

After an invocation to the Creator God [verses 1-2] the Psalmist proceeds to list the present sources of his grief.

The transience of life itself, [verse 3].

The ill health he is enduring, [verses 4-5].

He feels very isolated and lonely, [verse 6].

He suffers from sleeplessness, [verse 7].

He is faced with opposition and derision, [verse 8].

Mourning and sorrow are his daily life, [verse 9].

He is burdened with the seeming wrath of the Creator God, [verse 10].

He feels he has been deserted by the Creator God, [verses 10-11].

**The thoughts of the Psalmist then change direction to contrast human nature and changing of affairs and that of the Creator God's nature and unchangeableness of goal and purpose.**

**Psalms 102:12-14** [New King James] *“But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favour her, yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favour to her dust.”*

**This unchanging purpose is centred around Zion, it is His will to extend to Zion compassion and there could, in the Psalmist's view, be no better time but now, [verse 13].**

Yet the Creator God will act in His own time and the Psalmist has respect towards this, knowing that the Creator God is not indifferent to what His people feel so deeply, [verse 14].

**Psalms 102:15-16** [New King James] *“So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.”*

**The effect of this restoration of Zion will be that all people will have respect towards the Creator God, now returning as King of kings, [Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16].**

**Psalms 102:17** [New King James] *“He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer.”*

**The Creator God’s motive is not simply His own glory but to respond to the prayers of His people, like this Psalmist.**

**2 Peter 3:9-13** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*

**Peter is encouraging all true Christians to look for, prepare for and pray for the soon coming of the Creator God to Zion to take over the rule of a new society purged of all that is evil.**

**Psalms 102:18-22** [New King James] *“This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD. For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.”*

**This great event will be recorded for all time, but specifically that the Creator God heard the “groaning of the prisoner,” in this case the Psalmist, but it includes all who are held captive in this evil society that is at present been allowed to be ruled by Satan and his false prophets, [1 John 5:19].**

**Psalms 102:23-27** [New King James] *“He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days. I said, ‘O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. 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. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”*

The Psalmist return to the contrast of human weakness and God’s strength.

**The very fact that humans can change is used by the changeless Creator God to fulfil His original purpose for humanity.**

**Genesis 1:26-27** [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

**All humans are created in God’s “image,” Hebrew word is “tselem” meaning resemblance, outward form, shadow. The reason for this changeable human life is to become a being in the Creator God’s “likeness” Hebrew word used is “demûwth” meaning attributes or character.**

**Such a change can only take place over a period of time in the presence of the One whom you wish to reflect in character.**

This can only happen through the active presence of God, in the Person of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our willingness to submit to His lead.

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

**The “fruits” of the life led by the Holy Spirit are the very characteristics of the Creator God.**

**This opportunity to change is not a “part-time” job but a total surrender to our Saviour and Lord, out of gratitude for what He has done for us through His life, death and resurrection.**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27**].

The offering is referring to the burnt offering in which all of the animal was consumed on the altar, [**Leviticus 6:30**].

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Only then can this change of nature, the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit, begin to become ours as we follow the Holy Spirit and allow Him to re-educate us, rejecting totally the influence of this Satan-ruled world, [**1 John 5:19**].

**Luke 14:26-27, 33** [New King James] *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” ... “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

Seeking this changed life has to take priority over everything else in our lives.

**Psalms 102:28** [New King James] *“The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.”*

**Our change will be a witness to our children and their descendants.**

**Zechariah 8:1-6** [New King James] *“Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervour I am zealous for her.” Thus says the LORD: “I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.” Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.” Thus says the LORD of hosts: “If it is marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvellous in My eyes?” says the LORD of hosts.’”*

**What a wonderful contrast to the cities that we are living in today.**