

# PSALM 102 vs 1

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This is a patriot's lament over his country's distress. He wears the griefs of his nation as a garment of sackcloth, and casts her dust and ashes upon his head as the ensigns and causes of his sorrow. He has his own private woes and personal enemies, he is sorely afflicted in body by sickness, but the miseries of his people cause him a far bitter anguish, as he pours out in an earnest lament – Charles Spurgeon. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve.**



However, he has faith in God, and looks for the resurrection of the nation through the omnipotent favor of the Lord. This causes him to walk among the ruins of Jerusalem, and to say with hopeful spirit, "Zion will never perish". The land was oppressed, but the sun has not set forever, brighter days are in store for you.

**A Prayer of the Afflicted, when he is overwhelmed before the LORD, and pours out his complaint,**

**<sup>1</sup> O LORD, hear my prayer, let my cry come to You** / when we see beggars, that are pained and grieved with hunger and cold, lying in the streets of cities and towns, we are somewhat moved with mercy; this one says, lest my prayer would not prevail, O God, I raise it to a cry. If I be not heard when I cry, I will cry for not being heard, and if heard when I cry, I will cry to be heard yet more – Sir Richard Baker, 1568-1645.

**<sup>2</sup> Do not hide Your face from me in the day of trouble; bend Your ear to me: in the day I call answer me speedily** / the great exhaustion of the afflicted one is hinted at: so worn out is he, that he hardly is able to cry any more, but with a faint voice – Martin Geier, 1614-1681.

**<sup>3</sup> For passing away like smoke are my days, and my bones are burned like a hearth.**

**<sup>4</sup> Smitten and withered like grass is my heart; so I forget to eat my bread.**

**<sup>5</sup> By reason of the sound of my groaning, my bones cling to my skin** / one trouble leads to another; until without an appetite to continue, my days and life waste away and disappear into smoke and ashes – A. R. Fausset, 1866.

**<sup>6</sup> I am like a pelican in the wilderness: like an owl in the wasted places** / two birds representing gloom and wretchedness; mournful, hideous objects, loving solitude, sulking among the ruins; hooting discordantly; it's a terrible thing to see men flocking like vultures to devour the prey of a decaying church, when they ought rather to be lamenting among her ruins like the owl – Charles Spurgeon,

**<sup>7</sup> I watch, like a sparrow alone on the house top.**

**<sup>8</sup> All day long my enemies criticize me; those who scoff me, against me have sworn an oath / their rage was unrelenting**, venting itself in insults; swearing by one united voice; continuing from hour to hour, and repeated all the day and every day, to make his name an insulting by-word, till it makes life undesirable. **If I be where they are, they rail at me to my face**; and if I be not among them, they revile me behind my back; without a pause; they spit their poison all day long – Sir Richard Baker.

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<sup>9</sup> **For I eat ashes like bread, and mix my drink with tears** / if you think his bread to be bad, you will find his drink to be worse;

<sup>10</sup> **for Your anger aroused and ignited, for You lifted me up, and threw me down** / as if caught by a hurricane and carried higher and higher; lifted up in order to be dashed to the earth in pieces.

<sup>11</sup> **My days are like a shadow that declines; and I, like grass am wither away** / at best his days were but a shadow; but now they seemed to be a shadow that was passing away.

<sup>12</sup> **But You, O LORD, forever endure; Your memory to all generations** / men will forget me, but as for the Lord, O God, Your presence keeps the race of Adam from age to age. What God is now He will always be; what our forefathers told us of the Lord, is true to the present time. All other things are vanishing like smoke, but the One eternal shines on and will continue, when all these shadows have declined.

<sup>13</sup> **When You get up with mercy on Zion: for the time of her favor, yes, God's time has come** / the specific time, determined by God; there is a day coming and the whole world knows about; it will arrive sooner than most can imagine. Remember, God's time is talking about Jerusalem. The fact that it is in the NEWS now days; the fact nations moved their embassy **after the great nation moved their embassy first**; lets us know that the Lord God is watching as this 3000-year-old song – all its prophetic features unfolds; as Jerusalem steps up front and center, on the world stage.

<sup>14</sup> **For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor her dusty debris** / the people of God throughout the world, greatly care about this beloved City -- cluttered with the grime of centuries.

<sup>15</sup> **So the nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all kings of the earth, Your glory.**

<sup>16</sup> **For when the LORD builds up Zion, He will appear in His glory** / Jewish cousins remind us: Zion is the same word for: the Flock, the sheep of the Lord's pasture; so we might reconsider this verse and what it tells us; all the apostles told us: Jesus Christ, the Messiah of God, He is the glory of God. **All the major religions know One day He will return to the Mount of Olives.**

<sup>17</sup> **He regards the prayer of the destitute, and does not despise their prayer.**

<sup>18</sup> **This is written for the generation to come: that the people yet to be created will praise the LORD.**

<sup>19</sup> **For He watches from His high, holy place; from heaven the LORD sees the earth;**

<sup>20</sup> **to hear the groaning of the prisoner; to free those who are doomed to death;**



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<sup>21</sup> to declare in Zion / in His Flock... the name of the LORD, and His praise in Jerusalem;

<sup>22</sup> when the peoples and realms are gathered together, to serve the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.

<sup>24</sup> I said, O my God, whose years are throughout all generations, do not take me away in the middle of my days.

<sup>25</sup> Of old, You established the earth: and the work of Your hands are the heavens / long ago, but not like millions of years, and certainly not billions of years ago; but perhaps 7,000-10,000 years ago – which makes a lot of sense with Noah's Ark, the dinosaurs and the ancient Chinese language, the oldest written language; modern science shows much evidence for a Young Earth vs an Old Earth; Deep Time;

<sup>26</sup> they will perish, but You will endure: yes, all of them grow old like clothing; and like a coat You will change them, and they will be changed:

<sup>27</sup> but You are the same, and Your years never end.

<sup>28</sup> The children of Your servants continue; their progenies before Your face are established.

We may expect that the cause of God and truth will revive in future generations. Let us hope that those who are to succeed us will not be so stubborn, unbelieving and erring as we have been. God does not neglect the children of His servants. Here is Zion's hope, her sons and daughters will build her up, so, we must pray that our sons and daughters may be saved, and kept by His divine grace even to the end... established before the Lord. – Charles Spurgeon.

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