

## **Psalm 102 A prayer of the afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD.**

***LORD, I'm in bad shape. Please help me.***

<sup>1</sup> LORD, hear my cry for help when I pray to You. <sup>2</sup> Please don't hide Your face from me when I am in such trouble. Instead, listen carefully, and answer me the very day that I cry out to You. <sup>3</sup> I really need Your help, because my life is passing away like smoke when it rises and then vanishes, and my bones ache like they were on fire. <sup>4</sup> My hope has withered away like grass in the hot sun, and I am so defeated that I don't even care to eat. <sup>5</sup> I have become mere skin and bones, and all I can do is groan. <sup>6</sup> I now look pathetic like a desert owl in a barren land. <sup>7</sup> I lie awake at night because I am so lonely. In fact, I have become like a lone bird on a housetop. <sup>8</sup> My enemies are angry with me and taunt me all the day long by using my name as a curse word. <sup>9</sup> Because of the way they treat me I have been filled to the brim with sorrows and weeping. <sup>10</sup> LORD, because You are so extremely angry with me it appears certain that You have thrown me down. <sup>11</sup> My days are passing away like a shadow at sunset, and I am withering away like a fallen leaf in the sun.

***LORD, now is a good time to restore Jerusalem***

<sup>12</sup> Yes, I am withering away, but You will live forever. Your name will be remembered by all generations. <sup>13</sup> Since it is the end of the seventy-year captivity<sup>2</sup> it is now time to arise and have mercy upon Jerusalem. Please show Your favor by restoring her. <sup>14</sup> The godly ones of Israel love the stones of her walls and feel terrible that the city has been turned into rubble.

***LORD, this is what Jerusalem will look like when You are finished***

<sup>15-16</sup> Once You have rebuilt Jerusalem. the nations of the earth will see Your glory and fear You. Then the rulers of those nations will praise Your name for Your great power. <sup>17</sup> It will be obvious that You heard and answered the prayer of those who have been stripped of everything<sup>3</sup> and did not look down upon them with disdain. <sup>18</sup> What You did for Jerusalem will be recorded so that generations of people to follow will praise the LORD together along with those who actually experienced it. <sup>19-20</sup> Why did the LORD do this for Jerusalem? Because He looked down from His throne in heaven and heard the groaning of His people being held captive in a foreign land, He freed those who were doomed to die. <sup>21-22</sup> He did this so that when the people were once again gathered together in Jerusalem and the kingdom was reestablished, men would brag and tell others about the greatness of the LORD.

***LORD, please don't let me die prematurely***

<sup>23</sup> The LORD has robbed me of strength and stamina midway through life, and He has destined me for a premature death. <sup>24</sup> Because of this I say,

“O God, You will live forever. Please don't take my life prematurely. <sup>25</sup> You created the earth long ago, and You spoke the heavens into existence. <sup>26</sup> Even these will wear down and wear out. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away. <sup>27</sup> Ah, but You are the same. You will never change, and You will never come to an end. <sup>28</sup> Because You are always the same, Your children will dwell securely, and their descendants will be established in righteousness before You.”

<sup>1</sup> Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Copyright © 1980 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, vol. 1, pg. 247

<sup>2</sup> Steveson, Peter A., Psalms, copyright BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, pg. 390

<sup>3</sup> TWBOT, vol.2, pg. 700

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