

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023 • Read Psalm 102:18–28**

Questions from the Scripture text: For whom will this Psalm be written (v18)? To what does YHWH pay attention (v19–20)? What does He plan to do about that groaning (v21)? By bringing about what (v22)? But what is presently happening, in the meantime to the Psalmist (v23, cf. v11)? And what comparison is he making in prayer (v24)? What else is short-lived by comparison to YHWH (v25–27, cf. Heb 1:10–12)? Therefore, who else must continue and be established (v28)?

**What is God's purpose in delivering this psalmist?** Psalm 102:18–28 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God's purpose in delivering this psalmist was to give a song of praise to the God Who answers prayer so that future generations might be sure of the same hearing from the same God.**

Back in vv12–13, the psalmist concluded, on the basis of God's eternal character, that He had already set the time for favoring His people.

But the psalmist's generation would not be the only one in which the reproach of the church would cause great grief to those whose eyes were godly enough to see it (vv1–11).

So, now, the psalmist declares the loving work of the Holy Spirit to cause this Psalm to be written for later generations of believers (v18a). When they come upon similar days, now they too will be able to praise YHWH in the midst of it (v18b). And they too will know that He brings in set times of restoration in response to our prayers (cf. v17).

The Psalm had begun by asking the Lord to hear and see (v1–2), and now future generations will know that this is exactly what the Lord has done (v19–20). Future generations will also need to know that the times of YHWH's mercy to His church are set and sure, and that He brings them about in response to our prayers.

How do future generations hear this? The Lord is recording this to be sung as praise to His Name in the gatherings of His people for worship (v21–22). This will be newly and freshly fulfilled the next time you sing this Psalm with the church in Lord's Day worship.

And when we praise the Lord with this Psalm in worship, we praise the Lord for hearing the prayer from back in v11–12. The psalmist's life was almost gone (v11, 23), but he cried out to the eternal God (v12, 24–27), and God's eternity assured of His people's eventual and eternal blessing (v13, 16, 28).

Hebrews 1:10–12 quotes vv25–27 to identify Jesus as the eternal YHWH. His eternity and eternal glory guarantee His people's eternal blessedness. If we are united to Him, then our low estate must come to an end. We shall be glorious with Him forever (v28a). Even our offspring are established in a special covenant relationship before YHWH in this New Covenant blessedness (v28b).

When have you been in distress over your own condition or over the condition of the church? When have things been like this before? What did the godly do, and what did God do? What will He do now?

*Sample prayer: Lord 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 grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your ears will have no end. Make the children of Your servants to continue, and make our descendants to be established before You. Let this generation, and those to come, praise You here, where Your people are gathered to worship You through Christ, in whose Name we ask it, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP102C "Let This Be Written for the Sake" or TPH102A "LORD, Hear My Prayer for Aid"

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Psalm 102 versus 18 through 28. These are God's words. This will be written for the generation to come. That are people yet to be created. May praise yahweh. For, he looked down from the height of his sanctuary. From heaven, yahweh viewed. The earth to hear the groaning of the prisoner.

To release those appointed to death. To declare the name of yahua and zion and his praise. In jerusalem. When the peoples are gathered together and the kingdoms. To serve yahood. He weakened my strength in the way he shortened my days. I said, oh 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 of the work of your hands. They will perish that 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 children of your servants will continue. And they're descendants will be established. Before you So far the reading of gods inspired and An errant word. This portion of psalm 102 tells us that this psalm was written, especially for our benefit. We are those who are from other kingdoms who are from other people's, And we are the ones who In the ends of the ages.

God has gathered to himself through faith in jesus Christ. And so verses 18 through 22. Um, are describing. The usefulness of this psalm to be written for generations to come. Or for it that generation to come and every generation to come on, which verse 22 is true when the people are gathered together and the kingdoms, To serve your way.

There's some is Summarized the condition and occasion of this psalm is summarized in verse 23, through 28, he weakened my strength in the way he shortened my days and Now, you remember the, my days are consumed, like smoke, my bones are burned like a heart, my heart to stricken like withered grass.

From back in verse 3. And he compares his own brevity of life and weakness of life. In verse 11, my days are like a shadow week. That lengthens getting light in the day and i wither away like grass so the shortness and weakness of his life. Verse 11 with god's strength and endurance but you owe, you always so endure forever.

And the remembrance of your name, to all generations. And he gives an expanded treatment now, and you summarizing at the end of the psalm, the content of this song that is written for our generation. He gives an extended treatment of. God's strength and eternity. In verses 25 to 27 of old you laid, the foundation of the earth.

The heavens of the work of your hands. They will perish but you endure they've all grow old like a garment but cloak. You will change them. They will be changed. But

you'll you are the same. Your years. Will have no end. Now, marvelously, marvelously, obviously in the context, it's almost two.

This was a description of yahweh. This is also one of the longest quotations of the entire of the old testament in the entire new testament. And it appears and hebrews chapter 1. And verses 25 through 27, and hebrews chapter 1, our stated by the holy spirit to be describing the sun To be describing the lord jesus.

So here is one of the most exalted praises of yahweh as creator over against the whole rest of the creation in all of the old testament. And he was chapter 1, takes an extended section of it and says, this is about jesus. This is about the sun. This is about the one who became flesh.

Uh, that we might behold his glory and that he might obey, and then having obeyed be made to be sin in our place at the cross. That we might become the righteousness of god in him. That we might become the righteousness of God through faith in him. And so there's there's no possible way.

To hold to. The truthfulness of scripture, the truthfulness of psalm 102, and hebrews chapter 1, and not say, jesus is Yahweh. It is just. Absolutely. Certain And it's certain in its preciousness to us, not just in the truthfulness of the doctrine of who he is, or the reality. It's not merely a doctor not, merely a teaching, it is reality of who he is, but in the preciousness to us, Because even after jesus has come, Even after y'all play has come as a man described in verse 25 through 27.

Even after the lord's saving purposes have expanded to gather in the people of the earth and people from other kingdoms, like we who are gathered here, in this household, and around this table, The lord's people will still go through times. When the they

The lord will still bring his people through times. Of agony like that in the salt in this song. My heart is stricken, so i forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my groaning, my bones cling to my skin. The loneliness of the pelican and the wilderness and so forth.

And Verse six and seven. Having enemies. Uh, who Rejoice to see how low we are. Brought etc. And yet. It is still true. That the lord. Has set a time. For the restoration, the putting right? Of all the ills that happen to us all of the griefs. If his plan is that the eternal God, Will one day have a redeemed people who must then they aren't eternal in themselves, they don't exist from alterity but they must be forever.

They must be saved forever. Because god has taken us for himself. The point of the redemption. Was to join us to him. That we would say. Um, I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine and his banner over me as longer that we might say, he is our god and we are his people in That wonderful covenant statement then surely

Then surely. Uh, we know that he has set the time at which he will do this, and he will certainly do it. And he, even welcomes to us, then welcomes us, then in verse 17, to pray to him for that, which he has said, And that's the conclusion, the answer of that answer to that prayer.

Uh yes verse 28, the children of your servants will continue. And there descendants will be established before you reminding us, of course. Of the continuity. Of the covenant, the servants of the lord. Um, by prospective faith, in the lord, jesus christ, in the old testament to psalm 102. Are a contiguous line with his servants now who believe in jesus christ retrospectively.

And currently hebrews 1 and ourselves here. Middle. Tennessee, 2023. And our descendants, our seed, also then, Are established before the lord. That we have hope in him for our children. I have hope in him for you. Not a hope that doesn't require you to repent. Not a hope that doesn't require the holy spirit to give you life so that you can repent.

But a hope in god. That as As i such him before you in his word, if i lead you in worship, it is he by his spirit who will give you life to believe? It is, he who will make you righteous through faith in jesus christ and it is he who, when you go through times of agony, Will by his spirit, bring home to you what he teaches us in this part of his word.

That the set time of restoration is coming. That. Those whom god brings to himself through faith in jesus christ will endure. Forever before him. And all nations. Will come and fear the name of yahweh. And all the kings of the earth will come and reverence. God's glory. And so, This portion of the psalm says, This is written down for us.

That people. Now created, we are yet to be created and verse 18. But that are people yet to be created. Much praise. Yeah. So, my dear children, i am sorry for you. For the agony is that you will have in your life versus An age of suffering. Not the least of, which is your own suffering from your own sin, and May the lord, so sanctify.

You That's to spare you. Much of that. But i am glad for you that psalm 102 is written down. So that you may praise him. In the time of your suffering and know that it's it's time is defined and set and will end And may call upon him who listens to us.

And the midst of our suffering. From that, you may know it. Most of all. Because, you know, that the one described in verses 25 to 27 is jesus, Our creator. The eternal everlasting god. As the one who gave himself for us. So that you might give himself to us.

Amendments. Pray. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, how we thank you for. Writing down, causing to be. Written down for us. All of your scripture, everything that we need. For faith and practice. And we pray. O Lord that Your spirit would bring home to us the certainties of Christ's everlasting glory and of his being, our substitute and our savior.

And of the The set definite. Short time. Of our suffering. Oh lord. Make us to remember that. Our hope is in you. And though our life and this age comes quickly to a close. Our eternal life, that is With you and in our lord, jesus christ. Must be eternal because you are eternal.

And so we pray that your spirit would ever comfort our hearts And that remembering these truths, we would also remember to be driven to prayer. To call upon your name to know that you hear us. Grant that work of your spirit in our hearts and our minds, all our life long, we ask.

Through jesus christ. Amen.