



Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 102

2/5/13

Vs. 1-11 describe feeling of suffering;
Vs. 12-22 speak of the hope that God would act on their behalf;
Vs. 23-28 acknowledge that only God can help.

Though the author of this Psalm is unidentified, the reference to "Zion" (Jerusalem) needing to be restored (**verse 13**) places the time frame at the end of the Babylonian Captivity ([2 Chronicles 36](#)). [Psalm 102:25-27](#) are quoted in [Hebrews 1:10-12](#) as an address to the "Son" of God ([Hebrews 1:8](#)). Therefore this reference in [Psalm 102](#) was far-reaching toward "the generation to come" (**verse 18**), and the work of the eternal Son of God ([Acts 20:28](#); [Ephesians 2:1-21](#)).

Verses 1-11: This begins with an urgent appeal for God to hear (**verses 1-2**) because: (**verse 3**) life is brief as smoke and fire; (**verses 4-5**) the heart is burdened and body aches; (**verses 6-7**) loneliness is like the "pelican," "owl," "sparrow" all out of their element, and keeps the Psalmist "awake;" enemies are active (**verse 8**); food doesn't appeal (**verse 9**); the feeling of alienation from God (**verses 10-11**) is like a lengthening shadow.

Verses 12-22: God, however, is capable of helping because He:

- Is timeless (**verse 12**);
- Has reached the end of the 70 years of exile for Judah/Israel (**verse 13**; [2 Chronicles 36:15-23](#); [Jeremiah 25:8-14](#));
- Sees His people seeking to return to the Promised Land (**verse 14**);
- Preserves His people (**verses 15-17**);
- Will see that this return is preserved in Scripture for all time (**verse 18**; [Ezra-Nehemiah](#); [Haggai](#); [Zechariah](#); [Malachi](#));
- Is merciful and forgiving (**verses 19-22**).

Verses 23-28: Our lives are in the hand of God (**verses 23-24a**), but God is above all time constraints (**verses 24b-27**), and eternity is for those who faithfully serve Him (**verse 28**; [1 Peter 1:23-25](#); [1 John 2:17](#)).

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