

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

Psalms 103

2/6/13

Vs. 1-5 describe what individual attention God provides;
Vs. 6-14 describe what national attention God gave Israel;
Vs. 15-18 describe human frailty, and therefore, need for God;
Vs. 19-22 show the place and work of angels.

This Psalm is written in the style of other Psalms written by David; for those under Moses' Law (**verse 7**), which "was appointed through angels" (**verses 19-21**; [Acts 7:52-53](#); [Galatians 3:19](#)); and illustrates what God still does for Christians (**verse 19**). Thus, this Psalm is most popular among Christians. The work of "angels" is described in [Psalm 103:21](#), and used in [Hebrews 1:14](#). "Bless the LORD" occurs some six times in this Psalm, but because it is not the seven times which often speaks of God's perfection, indicates we cannot perfectly "Bless the LORD."

Verses 1-5: "Bless the LORD, O my soul" (**verses 1-2**) indicates how personal one's relationship with Jehovah should be: "all that is within me," "forget not all His benefits." He is identified as the God Who:

- "Forgives all your iniquities" (**verse 3**);
- "Heals all your diseases;" (**verse 4**);
- "Redeems your life" (**verse 4**);
- "Crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies;" (**verse 5**);
- "Satisfies your mouth with good" (**verse 5**);
- "Renewed" "like the eagle" when molting, produces new feathers with which to fly.

All of God's blessings for individuals are designed for renewal of the soul ([2 Corinthians 4:16](#); [Ephesians 4:20-24](#)).

Verses 6-14: Collectively, as a nation, Moses' Law described what God did for them:

- "Righteousness" and "justice" for their oppression (**verse 6**); (**verse 7**) encompasses [Exodus-Malachi](#);
- "Merciful," "gracious," "slow to anger," "abounding in mercy" (**verse 8**; [Joel 2:12-14](#); [Jonah 4:2](#)); however, there is a limit to His patience (**verse 9**);
- Unlimited mercy for the sins of "those who fear Him" (**verse 10-11**);

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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- Complete in His forgiveness (**verse 12**; [Hebrews 8:6-13](#));
- Parental in "pity" (**verse 13**; [Proverbs 3:12](#));
- Thorough in his understanding "that we are dust" (**verse 14**; [Genesis 3:19](#); [1 Corinthians 15:47-50](#)).

Verses 15-18: Regarding human frailty, life is like "grass:" limited in length of days (**verse 15**), and easily blown away (**verse 16**). God, however, may always be counted upon for "mercy" (**verse 17**) "on those who fear Him;" and guide toward righteousness for generations to come those who (**verse 18**): "keep His covenant," and "remember His commandments to do them."

Verses 19-22: Since the LORD's "throne" is "in heaven" (**verse 19**), and His "kingdom rules over all," then the work of "angels" is to bridge the chasm between God and men. "Angels" compared to humans are: stronger (**verse 20**); more obedient; "bless the LORD" by complete obedience (**verse 21**); "bless the LORD" completely (**verse 22**).

Thought: All of God's blessings are now found in Jesus Christ, offered to all who obey Him ([Romans 6:1-14](#); [Ephesians 1:1-14](#); [Galatians 3:13-29](#)).

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