

Psalm 101: Purity.

1: The psalmist sang of the Lord's qualities of **love and justice**. These are characteristics of the divine rule, foundational to His effective reign.

2: David said he resolved to live **a blameless life**, with a **blameless heart** before God. His lifestyle of integrity would begin in the privacy of his own **house**.

3-8: David elaborated on the path of purity he had said he would follow. That pure life would begin with him and extend to those who served him. This was a requirement if he was to enjoy the Lord's blessing on his reign.

David said he would keep himself pure by not tolerating **evil**. He would not allow **perverse (crooked/twisted) and wicked (evil)** people and their activities to be around him.

The king also wrote that he would surround himself with faithful (integrity) servants. He would **silence** slanderers and not tolerate the **haughty/proud**.

David also indicated he would purge/remove the wicked from throughout the nation, not just from the palace. As he administrated justice daily, he would **cut off** deceptive people and **the wicked**.

Speaking to the Lord, King David said he was determined to maintain purity in his empire by removing wickedness from himself, his court, and his capital. When justice prevailed, the Lord would be pleased to dwell in their midst.

***Proverbs 22:11** - He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.*

***1 Timothy 4:12** - Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

***Matthew 5:8** - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

Psalm 102: Cries and Confidence.

1-2: The psalmist prayed earnestly that God would **hear** him and **not hide** His **face**. In his **distress** he urged the LORD to **answer** him **quickly**.

3-7: The psalmist described his lamentable condition to the Lord. His **days** were being consumed away **like smoke**, his **bones** were burning, his **heart** was withering **like grass**. Having no appetite, he was **groaning** in physical agony. Emaciated, he felt desolate, **like** a mournful-looking **owl** or a **bird** sitting **alone**.

8-9: The dilemma was intensified when he heard that his **enemies** mocked his plight. He was mourning.

10-11: Moreover, he was convinced that God's **wrath** had consumed him. **Because** God had allowed this to happen, he felt his life was about over, **like the evening shadow** that indicates a day is almost gone and like the withering grass.

12-13. The complaints of were followed by confidence that the LORD would answer his prayers. **You** in Hebrew is emphatic. The transition to praise was sudden: the Lord sits **enthroned forever** and He would respond, for it was **time to show favor to** His people in Jerusalem.

14-17: He was confident that the Lord, who had established His reign in Zion, would not forsake those who love Him. The Lord's **servants** loved even Zion's **stones** and **dust** (a figure of the servants' intense concern for the city in its calamity) partly because it was His dwelling place.

18-20: Praise for deliverance was then anticipated. **Future** generations would **praise the LORD** when they heard how He **looked down from heaven (His sanctuary on high)** and heard **the groans of** His people in their destitute condition.

21-22: As a result of this deliverance, **the name of the LORD** would be praised when everyone gathered **to worship Him in Zion**.

23-28: Here the psalmist returned to his personal complaint. The Lord had weakened him, seemingly about to cut his **life short**. So he appealed for an extension of his life, asking that he not die prematurely.

Speaking of God's eternity in contrast with His perishing Creation was an expression of the his confidence in the Lord.

Verses 25-27 are applied to Christ in **Hebrews 1:10-12**. He was addressing the eternal Lord, and the writer of Hebrews identified Jesus Christ as the eternal One, the Creator and Sustainer of the world.

Hoping that God would speedily answer him, the psalmist lamented that he was overwhelmed and was deserted because of the enemy's reproach. But he found comfort in the fact that the Lord abides, and would not forsake him - a truth that has led many generations of saints to praise God.

Psalm 103: Bless/Salute/Praise the LORD.

After reviewing the mercies of God toward him, David found hope in his people's covenant relationship with the Lord, though they were sinful and frail. In this confidence the psalmist called on all creation to bless their Lord.

This psalm, a celebration of deliverance, seems to speak of the answer to the prayer in **Psalm 102**.

1-2: David told himself (**O my soul**) to **praise the LORD** with **all his being**, that is, to put his whole heart in his **praise** of God's **holy name**. This was certainly warranted in view of the Lord's many **benefits**.

3-5: David praised the Lord for His many mercies, including forgiveness of **sins**, healing of sicknesses, deliverance from death, enrichment of his life with loyal **love** and tender **compassion**, satisfaction (**with good things**) and renewal.

6-18: David recalled the Lord's covenant with Moses. God revealed Himself **to Moses** and Moses' **people** as a **compassionate and gracious** God, who is therefore **slow to anger** and abounds in covenant loyalty.

The Lord mercifully forgives sins. Because God is slow to **anger**. He completely separates sins from the sinners by forgiving them.

Though man's life is transitory, he is established by the Lord's **covenant**. **The LORD has compassion for He knows how** frail the nature of **man** is. Man is made of insignificant **dust** and his life is brief **like** the **grass** and wild flowers. Nevertheless **from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S covenant love is with those who** obey **Him**. Man's hope is not in other fragile creatures, but in the eternal God.

19-22: David declared that the Lord's dominion is **over all** the earth. Therefore all **angels**, God's **heavenly hosts**, who are His **servants**, and all His Creation (**His works**) **everywhere** should **bless the LORD**. David closed his psalm in the way he began: by exhorting himself (**O my soul**) to **praise the LORD**.