

Psalms 102 (NIV)

A prayer of an afflicted man. When he is faint and pours out his lament before the LORD.

- A)** **a)** Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you. {2} Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. {3} For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers. {4} My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. {5} Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones. {6} I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins. {7} I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof. {8} All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse. {9} For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears {10} because of your great wrath,
- b)** **A)** for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.
B) {11} My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.
- B)** {12} But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.
- C)** **a)** {13} You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.
b) {14} For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. {15} The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.
a₁) {16} For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. {17} He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.
b₁) {18} Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:
a₂) {19} "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, {20} to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."
b₂) {21} So the *name of the LORD* will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem {22} when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.
- A₁)** **b₁)** **A₁)** {23} In the course of my life he broke my strength;
B₁) he cut short my days.
- a₁)** {24} So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days;
B₁) **a)** your years go on through all generations.
b) **A)** {25} In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
B) and the heavens are the work of your hands.
b₁) **A₁)** **a)** {26} They will perish,
b) but you remain;
B₁) **a)** they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.
b) {27} But you remain the same,
a₁) and your years will never end.
C₁) {28} The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you."

Thematic Structure

- A)** My lament as a subject of the Lord's great wrath
 - a)** my plea for help
 - b)** my plight
 - A)** broken by the Lord
 - B)** my days cut short

- B)** The Lord is uniquely eternal
 - a)** The Lord's years go on forever (perhaps implied: back in time)
 - b)** In the beginning...
 - A)** The Lord laid the foundations of the earth
 - B)** the heavens are the work of His hands.
 - b₁)** In the end...
 - A₁)** a) That creation will perish,
b) but the Lord will remain;
 - B₁)** a) That creation will perish,
b) but the Lord will remain;
 - a₁)** The Lord's years go on forever

- C)**
 - a)** The Lord will show favor to the destitute of Zion who cry for help.
 - b)** The Lord will be praised