

Psalm 103 - Praise God, Who Forgives

Psalm 103

[A Psalm of David.]

Admonition for the Present

- 1 Bless the LORD, my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.
- 1 Bless the LORD, my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

- 2 Bless the LORD, my soul, And do not forget any of His benefits;
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;
- 2 Bless the LORD, my soul, and never forget any of his benefits:
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Declaration Concerning YHWH

- 3 Who pardons all your guilt, Who heals all your diseases;
- 3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;
- 3 He continues to forgive all your sins, he continues to heal all your diseases,
- 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with favor and compassion;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- 4 he continues to redeem your life from the Pit, and he continuously surrounds you with gracious love and compassion.
- 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- 5 He keeps satisfying you with good things, and he keeps renewing your youth like the eagle's.
- 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- 6 The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed.

6 The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed.
6 The LORD continuously does what is right, executing justice for all who are being oppressed.
6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

7 He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the sons of Israel.
7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.
7 He revealed his plans to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.
7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in mercy.
8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, patient, and abundantly rich in gracious love.
8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Declaration Concerning Man

9 He will not always contend with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.
9 He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.
9 He does not maintain a dispute continuously or remain angry for all time.
9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our guilty deeds.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
10 He neither deals with us according to our sins, nor repays us equivalent to our iniquity.
10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- If God would deal with us according to our sins and according to our iniquities, none of us would be saved

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
11 As high as heaven rises above earth, so his gracious love strengthens those who fear him.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us.

12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

12 As distant as the east is from the west, that is how far he has removed our sins from us.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

- The psalmist does not say, "As far as the north is from the south." That is a finite distance; but when you start moving from the east to the west, there is no end...

— This verse vividly pictures expiation, the removal of sin's eternal penalty

- When you look back on the Day of Atonement, there were actually two animals used. The first was killed and its blood was applied to the Mercy Seat, which postponed the note of indebtedness for another year. The second animal was released into the wilderness.

— The death of the first animal was for propitiation; the release of the second animal represents expiation. The idea is that the sins of the people were attached to this animal and its release into the wilderness, signifying that because of what happened with propitiation, God no longer holds our sins against us. The goat was set free from the penalty that the other animal endured (Cf. Micah 7:19; Heb 10:17).

— David praised the Lord for expiation (Ps 32:1-2)

— Although expiation removes the eternal penalty for sin, but it does not remove our temporal consequences of sin

13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For He Himself knows our form; He is mindful that we are nothing but dust.

14 For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.

14 For he knows how we were formed, aware that we were made from dust.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass; Like a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

15 As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

15 A person's life is like grass— it blossoms like wild flowers,

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place no longer knows about it.

16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.

16 but when the wind blows through it, "it withers away and no one remembers where it was.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Proclamation for the Future

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting for those who fear Him,
And His justice to the children's children,

17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

17 Yet the LORD's gracious love remains throughout eternity for those who fear him and his righteous acts extend to their children's children,

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

18 To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts, so as to do them.

18 To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts to do them.

18 to those who keep his covenant and to those who remember to observe his precepts.

18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all.

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Universal vs. Theocratic Kingdom

	Universal Kingdom	Theocratic Kingdom
Time	Eternal (Ps 93:1-2)	Future (Dan 2:44)
Scope	Universal (Ps 103:19)	Earthly (Dan 2:35, 44-45)
Rule	God rules directly (Dan 4:17)	God rules indirectly through a human (Ps 2:6-9)
Existence	Always (Ps. 93:1-2)	Contingent upon a human response (Exod. 19:5-6; Matt. 3:2; 11:2-6, 14; 23:37-39)

20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

20 Bless the LORD, you angels who belong to him, you mighty warriors who carry out his commands, who are obedient to the sound of his words.

20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you His angels, You who serve Him, doing His will.

21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.

21 Bless the LORD, all his heavenly armies, his ministers who do his will.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion; Bless the LORD, my soul!

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion; Bless the LORD, O my soul!

22 Bless the LORD, all his creation, in all the places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, my soul.

22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.