

PSALMS OF LENT | Psalm 102

SURPRISINGLY REORIENTED | vs. 12-22

Yet you, God, are sovereign still, always and ever sovereign. You'll get up from your throne and help Zion—it's time for compassionate help. Oh, how your servants love this city's rubble and weep with compassion over its dust!

The godless nations will sit up and take notice—see your glory, worship your name—When God rebuilds Zion, when he shows up in all his glory, When he attends to the prayer of the wretched. He won't dismiss their prayer.

Write this down for the next generation so people not yet born will praise God: "God looked out from his high holy place; from heaven he surveyed the earth. He listened to the groans of the doomed, he opened the doors of their death cells."

Write it so the story can be told in Zion, so God's praise will be sung in Jerusalem's streets And wherever people gather together along with their rulers to worship him.

A TANGLED PRAYER | vs. 23-28

God sovereignly brought me to my knees, he cut me down in my prime. "Oh, don't," I prayed, "please don't let me die. You have more years than you know what to do with! You laid earth's foundations a long time ago, and handcrafted the very heavens; You'll still be around when they're long gone, threadbare and discarded like an old suit of clothes. You'll throw them away like a worn-out coat, but year after year you're as good as new. Your servants' children will have a good place to live and their children will be at home with you."

INSTRUCTIONS

Let the Spirit and the words of Psalm 102:12-22 bring to your mind an image, a memory, an emotion of an experience of reorientation—of a time when your view of God and His world, His work, His heart surprisingly expanded.

Read the words slowly, until you can answer:

Where are you seeing God's surprising intrusion in the darkness?

Then let your voice join the psalm, describing what you are shown.

When you are ready, let the words of Psalm 102:23-28 be a candid confession that while you are glimpsing reorientation, you are still feeling (for yourself or others) the reality of disorientation. In other words, pray from within the tangle of movement between darkness and light.

Then, come to receive what has been prepared for you, a life given for you, given so that your life might be in God's life.