

PSALM 103

PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL.



Psalm 103 is one of the most comforting Psalms in the Psalter. It repeats over and over and over again God's compassionate love for his children.

King David invites his whole body and soul, along with all creation, to join in praising the LORD for his compassionate love.

These words of comfort speak to us today, whether in sickness or in health, as we join our souls in praising the LORD.

THE PSALM

Author

King David

Type

Praise

Mosaic Psalm (90, 95, 99, 105, and 106)

Pairing

Connected with Psalm 104

"Twin stars of the first magnitude"

United by theme "Praise the Lord, O my Soul"

Psalm 103 praises God for redemption

Psalm 104 praises God for creation

Luther

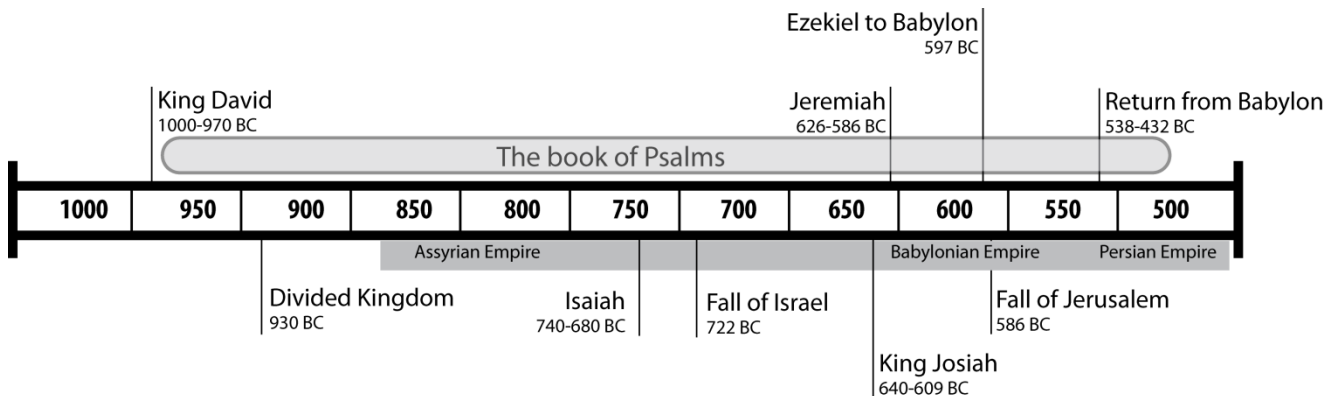
A dankpsalm "written in an elegant and charming style"

THE POETRY

There is distinct poetry to this Psalm of God's love and compassion towards his people. It begins with a personal call to praise (verses 1-2), continues with a reenumeration of personal benefits received (3-5) and then highlights God's mercies to Israel (6-19). The Psalm concludes with a corporate call to praise for the angels, the starry hosts, and all of creation (20-22).

THE BOOK

The Psalter, or book of Psalms, is a collection of the songs of the people of Israel written over a period of centuries, from the time of Moses until after the return from Babylon. There are 150 psalms in the book that cover nearly every aspect of Christian life and worship. This book is especially suited for use in your personal devotional life.



Read Psalm 103:1-2.

1. The setting of Psalm 103 is unknown. Considering the life of David and the height of his praise, hazard a guess when David might have written this Psalm.
2. David tells his inmost being “not to forget his benefits.”

How could the King of Israel forget God’s benefits?

How could we?

Read Psalm 103:3-6.

3. What are the 5 “benefits” of God?
4. John is dying of cancer. How should he understand that God “heals all your diseases?”
5. Which word in verses 3-5 summarizes God’s loving benefits to us? How?
6. What comforts does verse 6 bring John as he is dying of cancer?

Read Psalm 103:7-10.

7. How is compassion specified, qualified, and amplified in verse 8?
8. Guess how many times verse 8 is quoted in Scripture. What does that passage mean for God’s people?

Read Psalm 103:11-12.

9. How much does God love us?
10. How far have our sins been removed from us?

How important is that for someone facing death to know?

Read Psalm 103:13-16.

11. Agree or disagree with Thomas Adams who said, “A good father doth not turn off the child for being weak and sickly, but is so much more indulgent as his necessity requires succor.”

Does that statement apply to our Heavenly Father?

12. Are verses 14-16 really all that beneficial for someone near death? Don’t they already know how frail life is?

Read Psalm 103:17-19.

13. Contrast the timespan of our life with God’s love.
14. What encouragements could verse 18 give to someone bedridden with illness?
15. What comforts could verse 19 give to someone near the end of life?

Read Psalm 103:20-22 and join with all creation in praising the LORD!