

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 102 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We don't know who wrote this Psalm or when it was written. Some speculate that it was during the Babylonian captivity, but we can't be sure.

But what we do know of this Psalm is that it is the prayer of a person who loved the Lord and was overwhelmed in the situation that they were in. We can be sure of that because of what the introduction tells us, ***“A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the LORD.”***

And here is the beautiful thing about the Psalms. They cover the gamut of our emotions, our feelings and they can minister to our hearts. I am sure all of us have experienced feelings of being overwhelmed and you may be there right now. And thus, this is for all of us to read and apply to our lives. We need to glean what we can and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 102, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

**PSALM 102****VERSES 1-2**

1. You can feel the pain, the anguish of this person. Whatever he was going through he was overwhelmed by it. And he is just crying out to God but he also wants God to answer his hearts cry quickly! There is no doubt about it, we are very impatient people. When we cry out to God we want Him to respond immediately. But, when God calls for us to take a step of faith, we tend to drag our feet. And when we do something that is wrong, we want God to be patient with us.

In Isaiah 40:31 we are told, “**But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.**” By learning to wait, to rest in the Lord you get stronger. But, if you are anxious, worried, you will find yourself weaker because you are using your energy for things that will not help you, they will only drain you. May we learn to wait upon the Lord!

VERSES 3-7

1. The Psalmist is exhausted, he is depressed, he doesn't even want to eat. Now let's think this through. If this Psalm was written from Babylon in which were the hanging Gardens of Babylon which were one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, what was he missing? You see, it was beautiful and the food was plentiful. So then why was the Psalmist down? Because as beautiful as it was outwardly, inwardly it was the center of occult worship, it was spiritually dark. And the Psalmist is overwhelmed, not only being in captivity, but living in this place of spiritual darkness that surrounded him. He feels alone in this place and his hearts desire was to return to Jerusalem, as we shall see.

2. Now it is easy for us to feel this way as we live in this world. We can become exhausted, depressed, see things as hopeless because of the darkness that is around us. The problem is we have taken our eyes off the Lord, the One who can refresh us and give us the strength we need to finish the race strong. Wait upon the Lord, rest in Him and see the salvation that He can bring to the situations we face in life! That is truly what we need to do when we are overwhelmed in life!

VERSES 8-11

1. The ashes were a symbol of mourning, and the Psalmist is saying that ashes and tears were so common in his life, that they were his daily diet. He was so grieved over the condition he was in.

Now the Psalmist does know that it was sin, the nation's sin and his own sin that has brought this upon them, has brought them into captivity! And as he looks at his life he sees it passing away very quickly and he is possibly thinking he will never return home. But God is faithful and He will bring them home to the land of Israel and He did just that. They did return home from the Babylonian captivity, God is faithful!

2. Look at this picture of what sin does in our life. We moan, we groan, there is confusion, it is not pretty! There is much destruction that comes with sin. But the wonderful thing is that Jesus has paid the price for our sins and we no longer need to be in bondage to sin. Because of that we should be able to rejoice in the Lord and the salvation He has brought to our lives! As Christians we can allow sin to rip us off. But here's the thing, don't let sin take you captive, cause you to moan and groan and be confused. Repent of your sin before God and restore that fellowship that sin destroys!

#### VERSES 12-17

1. Notice that when he looks up to God everything changes! He has hope because he sees that the Lord is in control. God is eternal, and though these bodies of flesh will return to the dust of the earth, the Lord will continue on and His name will be known to all generations. Our hope is in Him!

2. Some feel that this Psalm was written by Daniel, but we can't be sure. If it was it was towards the end of the captivity and Daniel was very old and he recognized that he would not return home to Jerusalem. The reason this may be Daniel is that Daniel read the words of Jeremiah and knew the captivity would last only 70 years, and now the captivity is about over and God is going to restore His people, or as he said, “**. . . For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.**” In other words, “God is going to bring us back home once again!”

3. As you move into verse 14 you see that the land was very precious to the Psalmist and to the Jewish people even though it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B. C. You see, all that was left were rocks and dust, the city and Temple were destroyed!

But even in the midst of all that destruction, the Psalmist is assured that the eternal God can and will restore Jerusalem. He knows that God will answer his prayer and the prayer of His people!

In 536 B. C. Joshua and Zerubbabel led the first group back, but only 49,897 people of the 2 million plus in captivity, returned home. Many were happy living in Babylon; they became comfortable and prosperous there. Then in 457 B. C. Ezra came back with another 1,745. And then in 445 B. C. Nehemiah came back and rebuilt the city and its walls. But ultimately, this prayer will not be fulfilled until the Kingdom Age when the Lord will truly restore Jerusalem and it will truly be the city of God! That day is getting closer!

VERSES 18-22

1. The Psalmist was looking to future generations that would see freedom from their bondage. And yes the Jews returned to the land but they have not been set free from the bondage of other nations. But I think this is looking into the future to when the Lord returns and sets up His Kingdom on this earth and righteousness fills this land. No longer will they be persecuted by their enemies.

2. And I think this relates to us also. Christ has set us free from the bondage of sin that we are in. He has set us free from the bondage that sin brings into our life. He set the captives free in His first coming and He is coming again to establish His Kingdom on this earth!

VERSES 23-28

1. The Psalmist is saying that he won't see these things, but one day the Lord will come and create a New Heavens and New Earth, and God's people will be with Him. Yes, things may look bad now, but he knows that the Lord will bring salvation to this situation and restore all things!

2. Now as we conclude this Psalm some feel that this is a picture of the Holy Trinity at Calvary. It is possible because as you read verses 25-27 we see that in Hebrews 1:10-12 they are applied to Christ. Obviously here in Psalm 102 the Psalmist is speaking of the eternal Lord and thus, if this is speaking of Jesus as Paul tells us in Hebrews, then Jesus is the eternal God, the Creator, the sustainer of this world! In other words, Jesus is God!

Let me show you how some break this down in regards to this being the Godhead speaking, the Trinity!

In verses 1-11 we see the Lord Jesus speaking to God the Father as He was hanging on the cross of Calvary.

In verses 12-15 we see God the Father respond to His Beloved Son. In fact, Hebrews 1:8 fits in with verse 12.

This is interesting here, in verses 16-22 the speaker is unidentified and many feel it is the Holy Spirit that is doing the speaking here as He is describing the future restoration of Israel under the reign of Jesus.

Then, in verses 23-24a we see the Savior speak as He suffers under the hands of God the Father for our sins.

And lastly, in verses 24b-28 we see God the Father speaking to His Son as Hebrews 1:10-12 points out for us.

This could be an amazing picture of the Holy Trinity speaking to each other as Jesus bore the sins of the world on the cross of Calvary!

**PSALM 103**

As we have seen many of the Psalms speak of our deepest and darkest emotions. The pains we endure, the sufferings we go through, the difficult times we face. But in this Psalm of David we see David praising God for His great mercy that He has extended to him and to us. We are to be thankful to God with our entire being because He is God and He has blessed us with so much. So let's see what David is calling for us to do in this call to thanksgiving!

**VERSES 1-5**

1. As David spoke to the Lord, he also was speaking to himself, helping to get a proper perspective of the various situations he was in. Here he is reminding himself to bless the Lord, kind of a praise mixed with adoration and love. And this heart of thanksgiving David wants to flow from his entire being!

2. And yes, we can allow things to get us down, to cause us to be unthankful and maybe that is where David was at. What did he do about it? David reminds himself of the many blessings that God bestows upon Him. God forgave his sins, He healed him, He saves him from hell, He strengthened him and gave him the things he needed in life. As David looked back on all that God did for him, no matter what he was going through now, he could not stop thanking God for these blessings in his life and for just being his God.



3. How about you? Do you find yourself anxious about the future? Are you worrying about this or about that? Maybe it is because you have forgotten all that God has done for you! Maybe you forget all His benefits that He has given to you. He has forgiven you of all your sins in Christ. He has healed you from your sins and He has even healed us physically but ultimately that will be seen in the Millennium Kingdom. He delivers us from destruction, from the pit of Hell and even physical destruction and He is protecting our lives. For us who were loveless and without mercy He crowns us with His lovingkindness and mercy! He brings satisfaction to our lives. And as we rest in Him He restores our strength. Remember what the Lord has done in your life so that you will have a heart, a life that is full of thanksgiving unto Him! David remembered and was thankful!

#### VERSES 6-10

1. Think about his for a minute. If God dealt with our sins, our iniquities and gave us what we deserve, none of us would be here. We would all be damned to Hell! But our God is very gracious and merciful and David will show us what He does with our sins in a minute. And as David remembers Moses and the children of Israel and how they saw the workings of God and yet many turned from Him and because of that they were punished, he also recognizes that God did not give them all that they deserved; He was gracious and merciful to them as He is with us.

2. The problem comes if we continue to reject Him, resist the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing us to Christ; there comes a point of no return for us spiritually speaking. There does come a point where God's Spirit will no longer strive with us, and we are eternally lost. This is what Jesus called "**Blasphemy against the Spirit**" or "**The unpardonable sin**" in Matthew 12:31-32. The Holy Spirit is drawing people to Jesus, and if you reject what He is doing in your life, if you reject Jesus, then you are committing blasphemy of the Holy Spirit! And as I have said, there comes a point of no return where you have rejected Jesus so much that you can't be saved. Now for some, God is so gracious and merciful and they have a deathbed conversion. But why wait, you may not get that chance, receive Jesus today as your Lord and Savior!

3. Now some may feel that this is not fair. God is not gracious and merciful. Let's read on and I think David will clear that up for us and show us how great His mercy is towards us in not giving us what we truly deserve!

VERSES 11-14

1. First of all notice how great God's mercy is towards us. As far as the heavens are above the earth, that is how much mercy He shows those who love Him, those who fear Him! How big is our universe? Some estimates are anywhere from 14 billion light years to 150 billion light years to infinity, it never ends! That is God's mercy towards us, it never ends, in fact it is new every morning as Jeremiah tells us, "**Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**" Lamentations 3:22-23. That is God's mercy towards us and the more we experience His mercy, the more there is to experience, it is never ending and as we do receive it there is no diminishing of His mercy! That is awesome and there is even more.

2. Notice what God does with our sins and this is interesting to me. God did not say, "*He cast our sins as far as the north is from the south,*" why? Because you can travel 24,859.82 miles from the South Pole to the North Pole, and when you reached the North Pole you would then be heading south again. Now approximately 25,000 miles is a large distance for our sins to be cast away, but God does even better. He says, "**As far as the east is from the west.**" You see, you can start out going east and you can go for an eternity. That is how far away God has cast our sins. He not only has forgiven our sins through Christ, but He has forgotten them! It is as Isaiah 43:25 says, "**I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.**" What a comfort that is! How can you not have a heart full of thankfulness towards God in all that He has done for us! And yet there is more!

3. I think we often see ourselves as bigger, stronger, better than we really are. We may even see ourselves as spiritual giants, but we are not! You see, as God looks at us He sees us as dust. He knows our frame, He knows our weaknesses. And once we understand that, then we will no longer trust in dust, but the God who formed us out of the dust.

Now some may feel that God can't understand us, our frailty, our weakness, our pain and-so-on. How could He? Very simply, He became flesh and thus, He knows exactly what we are going through. Paul, in Hebrews chapter 2 wrote, **“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. . . . Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”** Hebrews 2:9, 17-18. You see, He can have compassion upon us because He knows exactly the struggles we go through in life! How can we not be thankful!

#### VERSES 15-18

1. I can't believe it, I am 54 years old and I am getting those AARP cards! Where did the time go? I am a grandpa, what happened? And who put this white stuff in my hair, especially my beard? Time is flying by and that is what David is saying here. This life is like a vapor, thus it's what we do with the time that God has given to each of us that really matters. May we use it for His glory to the fullest!

2. The Hebrew word for “**mercy**” is CHECED, (kheh’sed) and it speaks of “exuberant goodness.” Compare this to the life of man now. Man’s life is like a vapor and it passes away. God’s mercy is not fleeting, it is not like the grass that perishes but it is solid, it is sure and it is everlasting! And notice that God’s mercy has been extended to all generations to all that fear Him. And you are responsible for your own walk, your own relationship with Him. You can’t blame anyone else for your rejection of Christ, nor will the sins of your parents be held against you. But make no mistake about it, God’s mercy is everlasting and I am thankful for that! But if you reject Him, then you will stand in your own righteousness which is like filthy rags. You have rejected the free gift in Christ and you have rejected His grace and mercy that He is extending to you in Christ!

#### VERSES 19-22

1. Satan has been the god of this world ever since Adam and Eve sinned. Because of that we think that God has no control over what is happening. Not so! He “**rules over all**” and He will allow these things to continue until He comes back to take possession of this earth, which He purchased back on the cross of Calvary. Then He will set up His Kingdom.

2. Notice how David is orchestrating this worship of God. He begins with the angels and God’s angels are sent out to do His work. In fact, some are our guarding angels that God has sent to watch over us. Hebrews 1:14 says, “**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**”

Next he calls for all the spiritual beings to join in and bless the Lord. And finally, he cues in all of creation to join in and bless the Lord and concludes with his own soul blessing the Lord! David opened this Psalm with blessings unto God and he closes with blessings unto God, for all the mercy He has extended to His people! And he is just exhorting himself to bless the *LORD!* May we do the same, “**Bless the LORD, O my soul!**”

### **PSALM 104**

This Psalm praises the God of creation and God is not only the creator of the heavens and the earth, but He is also the sustainer of all life and all things. In as much as many like to mock the idea of creation, God is very clear and as you look at the evidence that is out there in this world, there must be a creator, there must be a designer, there must be a God. This all did not happen by random chance happenings! And as you listen to what the Psalmist is saying, pay attention how he lays out the creation week. With that said, let’s read what the Psalmist has to say about our creator God!

#### **VERSES 1-2a**

1. On day one of the creation week we are told, “**Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.**” Genesis 1:3-5. God has an order even in His creation!

2. Now there is one more thing we need to talk about here and that is this issue of God being covered in light. What does that mean? I believe it speaks of His purity, His holiness, His goodness, that there is no darkness in Him at all. It is as John tells us in I John 1:5, **“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”** There is no darkness in God; He is absolute purity and thus, the idea of Him being covered in light.

#### VERSES 2b-3

1. On day two of the creation week we are told, **“Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.”** Genesis 1:6-8.

Here we see God stretch out the heavens as He divided the waters from under the firmament, and above the firmament. That is the waters that covered the earth, and the water blanket that encircled the earth to shield it from harmful radiation and give it a tropical climate throughout the world. The earth was a tropical paradise, no storms, no rain, no violent weather at all. From the North Pole to the South Pole it was tropical!

VERSE 4

1. Remember in Job 38:7 as God was creating the heavens and the earth we are told that, **“... the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”** The morning stars speak of the angels and what we are told in Job is that the angels were created before the foundations of the earth and even Lucifer rejoiced in what God did, creating the heavens and the earth. He had not fallen yet!

VERSES 5-18

1. On the third day of creation we are told, **“Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.”** Genesis 1:9-13.

Remember that the waters covered the face of the earth and then God set forth the boundaries for the water and the land mass appeared. God created the vegetation for the creatures He will create. They are not created yet, but those things that they will need to live off of He has created. God is just preparing His world for life!



2. In verse 16 the word “**sap**” has been wrongly added for clarity. What this verse is saying is that the trees are full of life that God created.

#### VERSES 19-23

1. We now come to the fourth day of creation where we are told, “**Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.**” Genesis 1:14-19.

Thus, on the fourth day of creation God created the sun, the moon and the stars. Then why does the Psalmist speak of the animals and man? Because these animals will live in accordance to the sun and the moon, they will play a role in how they live. You see, most creatures come out during the night and sleep during the day. And yes there are those that come out during the day and sleep at night, but many do the reverse. On the other hand, man goes and works during the day and sleeps at night. Sadly to say, today man has become a creature of the night, in more ways than one.

VERSES 24-26

1. On the fifth day of creation we are told, **“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”** Genesis 1:20-23.

So we see sea life created here and also on day five we see the birds of the air created. Like I have said, God has an order to things!

VERSES 27-30

1. Now on day six of creation we are told, **“Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind’; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food’; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”** Genesis 1:24-31.

God is in control of His creation and He has their life in His hands, just as He has ours! And I think we see here the creation of man in this Psalm as God pours out His Spirit to create and not only man, but all the land animals. That is the week of creation except for the last day in which we will deal with!

VERSES 31-32

1. And now we see here the seventh day of creation or the day that God rested from His work. Not that He was tired, but He was giving us an example of working six days and resting on the seventh, a day that is to be given over to the Lord and rest in Him. Of this we are told in Genesis 2:1-3, “**Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.**” When God finished His creation He saw that is was good, very good and He rested!

VERSES 33-35

1. As we look at this world today we only have a glimpse of what it was like. The beauty of creation! But now sin has clouded that picture for us but one day it will be restored to what it was like in the Garden of Eden. But let me also say this. I think to often we miss the beauty that is there because we are not looking. And because we miss out seeing the beauty that God has created, we don't praise our creator God. But make no mistake about it, as much as sin has clouded the picture, we still can see some of that beauty, and it should cause us to praise the Lord. And like the Psalmist, we can shout, “**Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!**” That is our creator God, the One who has created the heavens and the earth!

2. We also need to keep in mind that God is going to restore this world, as I have said.

One writer put it like this,

He (the psalmist) longs to see it all brought back, restored, to find himself and all God's creatures, parts of the mighty harmony, that a new Sabbath of creation may dawn, a rest of God, in which He shall rejoice in His works and they in Him, and the universe becomes a temple filled with the anthem of praise.

- J. J. Stewart Perowne, The Book of Psalms, p. II:234

In this world we see the affects of sin and it is not pretty. And Paul picks up on this in Romans 8:18-23 as he wrote, **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

Paul is telling us that all of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God. Now that sounds strange because we are already sons of God, so what is Paul talking about? Yes, we are sons of God now but creation does not recognize that fact, in reality, they try to destroy it from their sight.

But I don't think this anticipation is speaking of men as the creation but all of the creation, the animals and-so-on. The words, "**earnest expectation**" in the Greek is the word APOKARADOKIA,, (ap-ok-ar-ad-ok-ee'-ah) and this is an especially vivid word that literally refers to watching with outstretched head, and suggests standing on tiptoes with the eyes looking ahead with intent expectancy. What is creation waiting for? The idea here is that the whole creation is waiting for the Lord's return or we can literally translate this verse like this, that all of creation is "on tip toes to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming to their own." The restoration of mankind is coming and all creation is waiting for this to occur!

You see, when God created the heavens and the earth everything was very good. Animals lived together in harmony; they were not meat eaters but vegetarians. But then sin entered the world through Adam and not only was Adam and all his descendants affected by this, but all of creation was also affected. Paul said in Romans 5:12, "**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.**" Now creation waits for the day when the Lord will return and release them of the bondage of sin that is in this world and that has affected them.

Of this time we are told in Isaiah 11:6-9, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”**

In Isaiah 35:1-2 we are told, **“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.”**

And in Hosea 2:18 we are told, **“In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.”**

Creation didn't ask for this, but because of man's sin they were affected by it. Now, they are standing on their tiptoes waiting for the revealing of the sons of God for when that happens the Lord will return and set up His Kingdom on the earth. This waiting Paul illustrates as a woman in childbirth. There is much pain in the birth process but when the child is born, when the Kingdom Age is established, all that pain will be forgotten for the joy that is before us!

So now we have a picture of what the Kingdom Age is going to be like as God has told us, but it is just a glimpse of what it will be like and we can compare it to what we see now, what we might call labor pains and we too wait for the birth of the Kingdom Age, the return of Jesus! It is as Morris tells us, “Creation is not undergoing death pangs . . . but birth pangs.”

We long for that day as does the Psalmist. He opened up speaking of God’s creation and how that it was good, very good. And now he closes out this Psalm with a passionate prayer for the Kingdom Age when the ravages of sin will be suppressed and the Lord will rule and reign in righteousness.

And so, as I have said as we conclude this evening, like the Psalmist, may we shout, **“Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!”** That is our creator God, the One who has created the heavens and the earth and is coming again to restore this world and all of His creation!