

Lament Turning

102

CII

Writer not named · Book IV · The Seven Penitential Psalms

"A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before Yahweh."

PICTURE WORD

Pelican

IN ONE SENTENCE

*suffering man pours out his distress, wasting away like a lonely bird, yet knows the eternal LORD will rebuild Zion.***Remember it:** One-oh-two: a lonely pelican sings to the God who never changes.

MEMORY VERSE

Hear my prayer, Yahweh! Let my cry come to you.

Psalm 102:1 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

לְקָאָת

"pelican" · verse 6

In the Psalms: once

לְקָאָת names a bird listed among the unclean birds in Leviticus and pictured in the prophets haunting ruined, empty places. Translators disagree on exactly which bird it is: pelican or owl. Either way, the picture is a creature far from home, alone in the wilderness, just as the sufferer feels.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–11 A sufferer begs to be heard as his days fade like smoke**12–17** But the eternal LORD will arise and rebuild Zion**18–22** Future generations will praise the God who hears prisoners**23–28** Heaven and earth wear out, but God stays the same

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

v. 25–27 → Hebrews 1:10–12 The Son made heaven and earth; He remains the same.

MY NOTES

**Listen.** Hear Psalm 102 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/102.**Cantillated.** Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress

Zion & the House of God

Life Is Short

FILL IN THE BLANKS

A suffering man pours out his _____, wasting away like a lonely _____
 , yet knows the _____ LORD will rebuild Zion.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What does the psalmist say his days consume away like?

☐ (A) Water

☐ (B) Wax

☐ (C) Dust

☐ (D) Smoke

2. What do the LORD's servants take pleasure in?

☐ (A) Zion's stones

☐ (B) The temple gold

☐ (C) The king's palace

☐ (D) The fields of Israel

3. What will happen to the heavens and the earth?

☐ (A) They will last forever

☐ (B) They will wear out like a garment

☐ (C) They will be sold

☐ (D) They will be hidden

TALK IT OVER

1. Which pictures of suffering in verses 3-11 seem most vivid to you, and why?

2. Hebrews 1 applies verses 25-27 to the Son. What does that tell us about Jesus?

3. How can God's unchanging nature comfort someone whose life feels like it is withering?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 102 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I can say verse 1 by heart

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: distress · bird · eternal · Check yourself: 1. D (v. 3) · 2. A (v. 14) · 3. B (vv. 25-26)