

Stir Your Soul to Bless Jehovah

Psalm 103 (KJV)

1. Personally Bless the Lord (Psalm 103:1-5)

David was a man who knew trial and triumph. There were times he sinned terribly and times he seemed to mount to the very heavens on eagles' wings of faith as he extolled his God. This Psalm is one that highlights his determination to praise the Lord, Jehovah, from the soul with his utmost being.

1.1 Notice his worship of God was whole-hearted: "all that is within me, bless His holy name" (1b). There was no double-mindedness in this worship! No distraction by this world's troubles, cares; his family troubles could not distract his whole-hearted devotion to worshipping his God with his very being from his soul!

1.2 Notice his worship of blessing the Lord remembered God's work. God's mercies are new every morning; He crowns our lives with goodness. Who can number all God's benefits (2b)? Well, David would give it a try!

1.3 **Bless Jehovah the Great Forgiver (3a)**. Every sin, regardless of how heinous, how offensive it is to God, falls under the blood of the Lamb of God and is thereby washed away in the sea of God's forgetfulness! God "forgiveth all thine iniquities." Your worst sin? Forgiven. Forgotten.

1.4 **Bless Jehovah the Great Healer (3b)**. Our Great God mends broken lives, broken health. The One who will raise every dead soul to give an account before His judgment seat, heals souls shattered by sin and guilt. As Christ forgave sin and made the paralyzed man to walk (Mark 2), healed lepers both ungrateful and grateful (Luke 17), gave the blind sight (John 9), and raised the dead (John 11), today He still has power to heal the sick in body and soul. Let us seek that He might come with healing in His wings to heal all our diseases!

1.5 **Bless Jehovah the Great Savior (4)**. God's people can indeed proclaim that our lives have been redeemed from destruction! Rather than facing the wages of our sin, the enslavement to sin and Satan, you and I who trust in Jesus Christ have been given eternal life! God's great mercies are reserved for those who love Him; what mercies can you recount of God's work in your life this *Seolla!*? Our lives have indeed been "crowned... with lovingkindness and tender mercies!"

1.6 **Bless Jehovah the Great Good Giver (5)**. Explorers in the 1500s sought the fabled "fountain of youth." The search for this fountain eluded those European discoverers, but the Scriptures state here that our vitality, our strength energy and abilities are "renewed like the eagle's." As the eagle is lofted high by

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the winds, resting in the air, you and I rest in our God and soar to new heights of faith and experience as we mount up with Him seeing the truths of His Word realized in our lives. We are fed with the Word of God and our daily bread. Our good Father sees that His children lack no good thing; He gives our needs—many times before we even realize that we need them! Praise the Lord!

2. Corporately Bless the Lord (Psalm 103:6-13)

David goes from singing a solo anthem of praise to His redeemer the Lord to singing with the choir of the redeemed. **Verse 6 marks the transition of praising Jehovah for the work in *his* life to blessing God for His work in *all His people through history*.** God's people are often oppressed, as Israel was in Egypt (6b), yet "The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed." As God unleashed 10 righteous plagues upon wicked pagan Egypt, so God bares His arms to deliver His people today. God swept an army away in the Red Sea; He can and will sweep away the obstacles you think will drown you!

As God "made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel" (v. 7) in Egypt and in the Exodus, so He will make His ways known to you through His Word and work as you follow His cloud by day and His pillar of fire by night. **Follow Him! Trust Him! See Him work!**

God must be patient, or He would have no people. His people provoked Him greatly, 10 times grumbling in the wilderness, but see the reminder of our God's attributes in verse 8: *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.* This grace and mercy means that God is not a nag: v. 9. Just as He forgave David and showed grace, mercy, and forgiveness to him, even so He will deal with *all* His people (vv. 10-11). In fatherish pity, He gives mercy to us, and removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is removed from the west (12-13).

3. Eternally Bless the Lord (Psalm 103:14-19)

Our Creator God knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. God does not demand more than He knows we can do— He know our limits, both physical and spiritual. Physically, we grow weak, sick, and age (Ecclesiastes 12). We are temporary- like grass and flowers that pass with the passing seasons (103:15). Even as the wind passes, so man passes and enters eternity (103:16).

Although our lives are brief, our souls are eternal. We have eternity to enjoy His abundant mercies in our lives and upon our descendants (103:17-18). May our children and grandchildren also see our God and know Him in His righteousness!

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Our Heavenly Father's Messiah is on His right hand seated on the throne; the Father Himself is providentially sovereignly ruling now and eternally (103:19).

4. Angelically, Universally Bless the Lord (Psalm 103:20-22)

As David began praising God personally (103:1-5), lifted his eyes to the hosts of believers' benefits from God (103:6-19), then lifted his eyes to God's gracious righteous throne, He calls upon the angelic hosts in heaven to join the choir of hosannas to the God of heaven and earth (103:20-22).

Angels are mighty, but their might is miniscule next to the omnipotence of the Almighty. They extol the God who made them, whom they obey (20). Angels hasten to implement the good will of God, whatever pleases Him (21).

Angels, men, nature— all creation is invited to join in universal Creation-wide blessing of the Lord (22a). David himself will bless the LORD with His soul (22b). Will you join David, the hosts of the redeemed past and present, the angelic hosts, and all creation of praising God in your prayers and songs tonight and this new Lunar Year?