

Sunday Night Message

September 6, 2015

Psalm 102

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 102

Introduction

The context of this psalm is said by some to be a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ as He was agonizing in prayer before the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. Verses 102:25 – 27 are quoted by the writer to the Hebrews in Hebrews 1:10 – 12, and are clearly a reference to the Lord Jesus. But if the proponents to the Gethsemane theory were accurate, it would mean that Jesus was crying out to Jesus in the Garden. (See Matthew 26:36 – 46; Luke 22:39 - 46)

Others believe that this psalm is a reference to the people of God while they were in captivity in the land of Babylon. Whatever the context, this psalm speaks of a man who is enduring suffering individually, but also seems to be in the midst of a people who are also suffering.

Notice the introduction:

"[A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD.]

Sometimes life gets a little overwhelming:

Did you ever have more bills to pay than money to pay them?

Did you ever have a problem in one of your relationships that seemed impossible?

Did you ever get really bad news from the doctor about your health?

These are all overwhelming situations.

These are situations that completely covering over your ability to process them and solve. These are situations bigger than solutions.

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." (Psalm 61:1-3)

"For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate." (Psalm 143:3-4)

I The Cry of the Child (vs. 1 – 11)

It is OK to cry out to God. It demonstrates your faith in Him. It's OK to blame God, because in order to complain about God, you have to believe that He is God.

Notice – His problem affected his appetite. (vs. 4 – 5) It probably affected his sleep as well.

Notice – He had enemies (v. 8) These enemies are probably critics, like Job’s friends.

Notice – His problem has caused him to go into mourning. (v. 9)

II His Change of Focus (vs. 12 – 22) – from His Problems to God’s Promises

Notice the transitional phrase, “But thou, O LORD”

In this section we see what the nature of the problem was. Up until now, it appeared that problem was personal to the writer. But, here the context of Zion (Jerusalem) is revealed.

Verse 13 seems to indicate that the problem (The Babylonian Captivity) was coming to an end. The Jews knew that their captivity would last 70 years.

"Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations." (Jeremiah 25:9-13)

"For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:10-11)

See Daniel 9:1 - 20

III His Consideration of Future Generations (vs. 23 – 28)

In these final verses, the psalmist reflects on the fact that his time on the earth was short, but the Lord’s promise would endure beyond his lifetime to future generations, because the Lord is eternal.

The point is that the psalmist was considering future generations. Too many people today are forsaking the future generations on the altar of their own pleasure and comfort.

Illustrate – Hezekiah –

"Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?" (2 Kings 20:17-19)