

PSALM 103

This psalm of David may have been penned in his later years, when he had a higher sense of the preciousness of pardon because he had a keener sense of the heinousness of sin. It is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to the God of Israel, whose name is Yahweh, for his mercies to repentant sinners. David here excites the soul to praise by calling to mind Yahweh's benefits, at the head of which must forever stand remission of sins, or that full and free pardon purchased for us by Jesus Christ.

In verses 1-5, David sings of the personal mercies he had received; in 6-19 he magnifies the attributes of Yahweh as displayed in his dealings with the people; and he closes by calling upon all creatures of the universe to adore Yahweh, who is ever gracious.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Bless YAHWEH, O my soul, and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.
- 2 Bless YAHWEH, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;
- 3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things, *so that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.

- 6 YAHWEH performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.
- 8 YAHWEH is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
- 9 He will not always strive *with us*, nor will He keep *His anger* forever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
so YAHWEH has compassion on those who fear Him.
- 14 For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.

- 15 As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- 16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer.
- 17 But the lovingkindness of YAHWEH is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,
- 18 to those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them.

- 19 YAHWEH has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.
20 Bless YAHWEH, you His angels, mighty in strength, who perform His word,
obeying the voice of His word!
21 Bless YAHWEH, all you His hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will.
22 Bless YAHWEH, all you works of His, in all places of His dominion; bless YAHWEH, O my soul!

PRAYER

O gracious Yahweh, our Lord God, your mercy is higher than the heavens. As a father pities his children, so you are of tender mercy and full of compassion to all repentant sinners. Grant that we may comprehend the length and breadth, the depth and height of your great goodness to us frail and erring mortals. Endue our souls with a lively faith, productive of trust and confidence in you, and of good works done in obedience to your blessed will. May we pass our time of sojourning here on earth in earnest trust of eternal bliss hereafter. And when at length you are pleased to call us hence, we shall depart in joyful anticipation of a resurrection of both body and soul to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.