

Psalm 102:23-28 – What Will Happen in 2018, Guaranteed

Alexander, Delitzsch, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Geneva, Barnes, Clarke, JFB, Spurgeon, Trapp, Henry, Handfuls, Dickson, Gill, Calvin, INT?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You will have personal problems in 2018, maybe health problems, maybe spiritual problems. You will have trouble in your family in 2018, maybe with your children, or your spouse, or your in-laws. The church will struggle in 2018. Maybe more ministers (牧师) will fall into sin, or young people will leave and run to ear-tickling churches, or the government will bring more persecution (逼迫) on the church. What is certain is that you will have troubles in 2018. I prophesy this.

I know that the fake talking heads on television will tell you that you just have to rebuke (斥责) your troubles in your personal, family, or ecclesiastical (教会的) life and they will go away, but that is not the truth. Holy men in the Bible confirmed that that was not the truth and godly men today will confirm that that is not the truth.

I prophesied that you will have troubles in the New Year, now I will tell you how to prepare it, based on God's Word.

Our headings are:

The poet felt like he was going to perish (灭亡)

But he remembered God's power

And he remembered God's promises

Our goals are: That you will be confident in God's power and what he has promised you so you can face whatever problems come your way in 2018.

The poet felt like he was going to Perish

23 **He weakened my strength** in the way; **He shortened my days**.

1. In the course of time, the Psalmist (诗人), still in the prime (盛年) of his life, felt weakened.

He felt as if **God weakened him**. Now it is true that God decrees (命定) all things that happen, good or bad. **But man is**

the cause (原因) of all his own troubles. God simply permits the consequences of man's sin—yours or someone else's sin.

24 I said, "O my God, **Do not take me away** in the midst of my days;

2. Then the Psalmist felt like he was going to die (V21-22).

"Do not take me away" literally translated is "**Cause me not to ascend**." He was not ready for his soul to ascend to God-to die.

This shows **he was a believer and he had confidence in God** who controlled whether he lived or died.

The **Psalmist wasn't running away from his responsibilities, but he felt he had more work to do**. He had to serve man and worship God. Consider one of the Psalmist's responsibilities.

Psalms 30:9 "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? **Will the dust praise You?** Will it declare Your truth?

In fact, it was the wicked man who the Psalmist thought should die in the prime of his life, not him.

Psalms 55:23 But You, **O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty (嗜血的) and deceitful men shall not live out half their days;** But I will trust in You.

3. The Psalmist's sad feeling made him cry out for help.

This was the proper way of saying: "Oh, My God." No one should use God's name for an exclamation.

4. Lessons:

a. The fact that you are saved but still want to live a long time is not wrong. You must want to be around to fulfill you duties to God and man. In fact, you are obligated (有责任的) to preserve your life. (Law 6)

b. You will feel weakened at times in 2018 – guaranteed! You will probably feel alone, and humanly speaking, you may be alone. You will have challenges in your home – maybe major challenges – sickness, a rebellious child, etc. The state will continue to be antagonistic (对抗的) to the church. Maybe it will want to force us to avoid preaching about certain topics from the Bible so we don't offend the wicked. But through your trials (试炼) you are never alone. God is aware of what is happening in you, your family, and the church.

But he Remembered God's Power

24...Your **years are throughout all generations.** 25 Of old You **laid the foundation of the earth,** And the **heavens are the work of Your hands.** 26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; **Like a cloak You will change them,** And they will be changed. 27 **But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.**

1. As the Psalmist pondered (思考) his weakness and the thought of dying in his youth, he reflected on the God whom he served.

2. He remembered that his God was eternal (永恒的) .

So whatever troubles might come to him, his family, or the church, he knew that God would always be in existence. Yes, for everything there is conception (孕育) , growth, decay, and death. All made things will end - like an old piece of clothing, but not God. He doesn't fall apart. He has self-sustaining power.

3. He remembered that his God was the great Creator.

God laid the foundation of the earth. He then set the heavens – the upper part of his creation – in place. His hands are seen throughout creation. He is the Master Builder.

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

And then God maintains that creation by his providence (护理之工) . What amazing power!

4. God's character of eternity and his work of creation described here specifically applies to the 2nd person of the Godhead—Jesus.

The writer of Hebrews directly confirmed this. It is Jesus who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Look at the quote.

Hebrews 1:10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

It was Jesus who made and sustains the world.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions (有统治权的) or principalities (执政的) or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

And this is not a surprise. This was pictured before.

Exodus 23:20 - "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

So the church's Lord and Savior **will always be in existence** and **he will always maintain his**

church. He has the power!

5. Lessons:

a. Though you may have distresses in 2018, and though your family will have dilemmas (困境) in 2018, and though the church may decline in 2018, your God is capable - able to fix any troubles or keep you through those troubles.

b. You can have a reminder of God's greatness when you see how the whole church (Judah/Israel) sold itself into captivity (被掳), but God saw her through – keeping her through the fires of Assyria and Babylon!

And he Remembered God's Promises

28 The **children** of Your servants **will continue**, And their descendants **will be established before You.**"

1. The Psalmist then reflected on the covenant promises that God made to his children in the past.

He saw that just as God was eternal and unchangeable in his nature, so he would be eternal and unchangeable in his covenant (约) . **He saw that God was his Creator.** But these things would not have been enough unless God re-created man. And **God made this covenant promise to remake man through Jesus to Adam, Noah, and Abraham.** Jesus made the Psalmist God's child! **And God promised more!**

2. God promised that his people would never end.

This is speaks of the perpetuity (永久, 永恒) of the church.

Isaiah 66:22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "**So shall your descendants and your name remain.**"

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an **everlasting covenant with you** — The sure mercies of David.

Jeremiah 32:40 'And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that **I will not turn away from doing them good**; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

3. God promised that his people would be established forever – not just exist forever.

They are established on the rock, even after being taken out of the miry (泥泞的) clay (陶土) .

Psalms 107:36 There He makes the hungry dwell, **That they may establish a city for a dwelling place,**

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**"

God's people will stand upright! God's people will not become like the

nomadic (游牧的) tribes of Africa and the Middle East, fighting their own battles.

4. God promised that his people would be established in his gracious presence! He would be with them!

5. Lessons:

a. Face what the future holds for you, your family, or the church. You will have troubles in 2018, but God is great and God is good! He is especially good to his children. Neither you, nor your family, nor his church shall be moved. Surely God will allow troubles but he has a hedge around his people's souls. Remember Apostle Paul's words: 2Corinthians 4:8 *We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...* (我们四面受敌, 却不被困住; 心里作难, 却不至失望; 遭逼迫, 却不被丢弃; 打倒了, 却不至死亡)

So "don't sweat the small stuff." **Don't worry about the sickness and sorrow.**

Think of the big picture.

b. Pray. Pray if you are lazy or lukewarm so that you might be on fire for truth and faithfulness. Pray that the Lord will work in your children so they live obediently. Pray that ministers will stop lukewarm preaching and challenge the saints with truth. Pray that you might endure suffering, if the Lord is not pleased to remove them.

c. Be comforted when you face your troubles. The eternity of God (and a God who is immutable不改变的) is a comfort to his saints – always. You are resting on the Lord's bosom. You are safe and comforted! What **God wants to do he has the ability to do.** Do you really believe this?

d. Be a student of the Word so you will have much knowledge of God's promises. This is what the Holy Spirit uses to strengthen your faith. When faith is robust, fear must run.

Conclusion:

The Psalmist felt like he was going to perish, even while he was in his prime. But even as he feared perishing prematurely, he remembered God was great – he was eternal and he was the Creator of heaven and earth. And then he remembered God's good promises to preserve his church for eternity and propagate his church as an unstoppable force in the world.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You will face some challenges in the coming year, maybe serious challenges. I prophesy this with absolute certainty. Those tests may be in your personal, your family

life, and in the church. But know for sure that you will face trials in the coming year, maybe even serious ones.

2. In order to face those challenges you must know your God. He is eternal – always around to help. And he is Creator of heaven and earth – who always has power. This same God, your covenant God, is the one who **promises faith and assures you by your faith that he will preserve (保守) and propagate (扩大) his church.** God is great. God is good. He uses his greatness and goodness for you! He does what is best for you.

3. The reason he is good to you is because you are his children through Jesus who shed his blood on the cross. He made you special through Jesus.

Finally, if you don't know this Jesus Christ, you are lost. You have reason to worry and to panic when you think of the future. Your wealth, position in society, and your good looks can be destroyed quickly – all the things in which you trust. So see your need and ask God to help you to have a future in which your sins are forgiven and you are adopted into God's family.