

**=Story Behind the Psalm=
Psalm 102**

NOTE: *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

Scripture Reference: Psalm 102

PSALM 102

AUTHOR: Perhaps Daniel

Some attribute the authorship to David, but it seems to be a captivity Psalm, which means it was written by Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah or some leader in captivity. Probably the words were penned by Daniel.

The Story Behind the Psalm

Read it carefully, especially verse 13. It was obviously written at the close of the captivity; that is, at the close of the 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Notice especially verse 13, "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come." The time had come for deliverance of God's people. Though we have no evidence that Daniel returned to the land, we nevertheless feel that whoever wrote this Psalm (probably Daniel) was signaling the end of the captivity.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This Psalm was used when sorrow was ending or a bad time was coming to an end. Perhaps a Jew was nearing the end of a serious illness or a time of crisis in his life. During such times this Psalm was very dear.

Lesson:

1. There will be persecution for the Christians

Verse 20 says, "To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; Persecution is going to come and it'll test and try the Christians.

A man by the name of Nero, in 64 A.D. a fire broke out and burned for six days and seven nights. Upon the prelude to the fire Nero hosted a city-wide party with games, fun and fire. Somehow the fire got out of control and caught a building on fire then it escalated to burning almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the city. And the towns people were pointing fingers at him, he directed the fingers

towards the Christians and thus, began the heavy persecution. The Christians were tortured with an amazing death. Unlike the dark ages, to where they were just beheaded with a guillotine, which was quick and painless. These Christians were crucified like Christ and by the thousands at a time.

There was a long road into Rome and Nero would crucify thousands of people on the left and right side of this road, to warn people that if they were to preach Christ they would join the crucified.

He would invade synagogues, churches, meetings, and other Christ-like events and take the Christians and put them in a large coliseums and have people pay and gather around while he sends out lions and tigers to kill them. It's a fact that due to the games the Lybian elephant, the European lion, the aurochs (a yak-like wildebeest) , and all bears became extinct in these games in Europe and Africa.

In 13th century Spain those that preach against the hierarchy of society were taken into custody and have their tongue cut off and having their lips sown up.

Revelations 20:4 says, *“And I saw thrones, an they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of jesus, and for the word of god, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”* Do you see in the future the Christians will be beheaded.

2. But don't worry like unto this psalm we will be delivered.

We will reign a thousand years with Christ on earth like how it was suppose to be. We will be delivered from this old nasty world of the devil's playground and we get to go back to heaven. By the way, what's so bad about dying anyways? We get to go to heaven. Don't see the trial but see the reward that is to come.

Memory Verse: *To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; Psalm 102:20*