

Restorative Reflection

Psalm 103

vs. 1-5, 20-22, Bookends of worship.

vs. 6-21, Vivid description of God's loving faithfulness.

vs. 1-2, The depths of who I am bless your holy name.

Take the opportunity to zoom out.

As you reflect on 2025 remember who God is and what he has done.

Prayer: God, allow me to see my life in the larger story.

vs. 3, Forgiveness / healing - protection from our flesh, the world, and the enemy.

Forgiveness = Restoration

vs. 4, There is hope for a resurrected life.

vs. 5, A life filled with God is a life of satisfaction (we flourish in the peace of God).

What have I been trying to satisfy?

What is God's best?

Isaiah 40:31 but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength;
they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me understand renewal. Allow me to live in the hope of the "eternity life".

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.

Who is "the Lord" that the Psalmist speaks of?

How does this God forgive, restore, and give hope of on-going renewal?

vs. 6-21, Vivid description of God

- He is a covenant keeping God.
- He is righteous (righteous Father).
- He is close. He is not out of touch. He regularly interacts with his people (Moses, Israel, etc.)

The Exodus -> no other story captures the fickleness of humanity. It reminds us of our lack of gratefulness, and our self-determined pursuit of ease.

But God..

- He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love.

All of this compels him to **not** treat us according to what we deserve.

Exodus 34:6 The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth,

Key theme to remember about the character of God...

Compassion!

Faithful love / Restorative love / All-knowing love

Our lives don't fade into the distant past with God as it does with humanity.
With God, we are not forgotten!
He knows us better than we know ourselves.

vs. 17, We are kept for eternity.
Heaven and earth are connected.

vs. 20-22, All of creation engages in the worship of the Lord.

Prayer: Jesus, let my life be a part of "all creation" worshiping you. Allow me to see the connections of your kingdom.

Your mercies, your people, your mystery, your goodness, your invitations, your new creation.

This Psalm reminds us

- God is faithful (everlasting covenant).
- Forgiveness awakens our soul.
- There is still real and lasting hope even when we fail.
- Heaven and earth consistently interact.
- We are a significant part of the whole story. It is the greatest story that reaches its climax in Jesus.

Jesus is the visible, active, embodied representation of this compassionate God!