

## Psalm 103 - Bless the Lord, O My Soul

**A** – Vs.1,2 Bless the Lord... (Individual Praise)

**B** – vs.6 The Lord executeth *Righteousness and Judgment* for all that are oppressed  
(Foundation of His throne – cf. 97:2; 89:14)

**C** – vs.8 The Lord is *merciful and gracious*, slow to anger, plenteous in *mercy*  
(Attributes from His throne)

**D** – vs.10 He hath not dealt/rewarded us after our sins/iniquities

vs. 11 <b>E</b> As the heavens high above earth	<b>F</b> So great is His mercy toward them that fear Him
vs. 12 <b>E</b> As far as the east is from west	<b>F</b> so far hath He removed our transgressions fr/ us
vs. 13 <b>E</b> Like as a father pities his children	<b>F</b> so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

**D** – vs. 14-16 For He knoweth our frailty, that we are dust (sinful),

**C** – vs. 17 The *mercy* of the Lord from everlasting to everlasting

**B** – vs.19 The Lord hath prepared *His throne* in the heavens.

**A** – vs.20-22 Bless the Lord... (Corporate Praise)

The grammatical style of this Psalm is not be accident. God designed that we would see two styles merged into one in this passage: Both Chiastic and Parallel. The chapter is in the typical chiastic pattern, until we get to the pinnacle passage of the chapter, vs.11-13. Here we see a parallelism emerge—three related parts on the left {the E statements}, followed by three parts on the right {the F statements}. In other words, the psalmst uses language expressive of the greatness of God: “as the heavens are high above the earth,” so then this is how “great is His mercy toward” His trusting children; “as far as the east is from the west,” then to this degree, “hath He removed our transgressions” from us {His children}; lastly the familial picture, “like as a father pities his children,” so the “Lord pities them that fear Him.” This last one would be in simile fashion, not in degree of the “pity”, but in comparison.

The Psalm 103 passage finishes the way it began. You will never look at this Psalm in the same light again. Oh the height and deep of His mercy for His wayward children. Thank you, precious Jesus!