

East From West; Psalm 103:10-14

I. Repay

- a. We look for justice against our oppressors
 - i. “I hope they get what they deserve”
 - ii. David even cried out to God for justice
 - iii. Psalm 109:7–14 (ESV) ⁷ When he is tried, let him come forth guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin! ⁸ May his days be few; may another take his office! ⁹ May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow! ¹⁰ May his children wander about and beg, seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit! ¹¹ May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil! ¹² Let there be none to extend kindness to him, nor any to pity his fatherless children! ¹³ May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation! ¹⁴ May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out!
 - iv. Pay attention to verse 14
 - v. Psalm 103:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
 - vi. David did recognize God’s sovereignty when he was running from Saul
- b. Thank God that He does not “repay us according to our iniquities”

II. Sin and Iniquity

- a. Sin and Iniquity
- b. Judges 20:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ Among all these were 700 chosen men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.
- c. The basic idea behind sin and iniquity is ‘missing the mark’
- d. It is much bigger than that
 - i. Genesis 4:6–7 (ESV) ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”
 - ii. Deuteronomy 12:31 (ESV) ³¹ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.
 - iii. It is a violation of God’s law
- e. Violating God’s law caused a separation between us and Him
 - i. Adam and Eve knew spiritual (and physical) death because of sin
 - ii. Genesis 3:22–24 (ESV) ²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- iii. "It would have been an unqualified disaster if man had eaten of the tree of life and in consequence thereof lived forever in his shameful and humiliating condition. What man had already done was bad enough, but to prevent an even greater tragedy, God drove him out of the Paradise of Eden, here again, for "man's sake"¹
 - iv. Romans 5:12 (ESV)¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
 - v. Everything bad that has ever happened to you (us) has either been caused by some other person or yourself
 - f. God could not stand by and let mankind live in their shameful and humiliating condition, sin
- III. High as the Heavens
 - a. Psalm 103:11 (ESV)¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
 - b. "High as the heavens" is not a literal distance; it denotes the immeasurable distance of infinity
 - c. God has always only wanted what is good for us
 - i. Luke 11:11–13 (ESV)¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
 - ii. James 1:17 (ESV)¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
 - d. His steadfast love has brought us back from the dead
 - i. Ephesians 2:1–6 (ESV)¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 - ii. 1 John 4:9–10 (ESV)⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Genesis 3". "Coffman Commentaries on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/genesis-3.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

IV. East from West

- a. Psalm 103:12 (ESV) ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- b. Again, this brings the idea of infinity
 - i. God foreshadows this in Jeremiah 31:31ff
 - ii. The Hebrew writer quotes Jeremiah
 - iii. Hebrews 8:12 (ESV) ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”
- c. This is what the Gospel (Good News) is all about
 - i. There is no more daily reminder of sins, Jesus has dealt with sin
 - ii. We are the ones who keep reminding ourselves
 - iii. Hebrews 9:28 (ESV) ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
 - iv. We must remind ourselves when we allow ourselves to be tempted
 - v. “Only kick yourself hard enough to get off the ground. Anything more is counterproductive”
 - vi. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1)
 - vii. We have been bought with the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 3:18-19)

V. Promise

- a. God promised us redemption
- b. God fulfilled His promise through Jesus
- c. He promised us forgiveness and has given us just that
- d. “As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us” Psalm 103:12