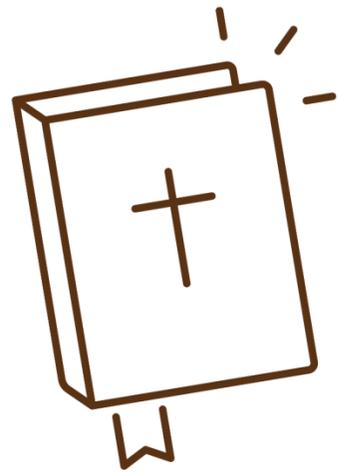


Psalm 103

Praise for the
Lord Mercies

(NKJV)





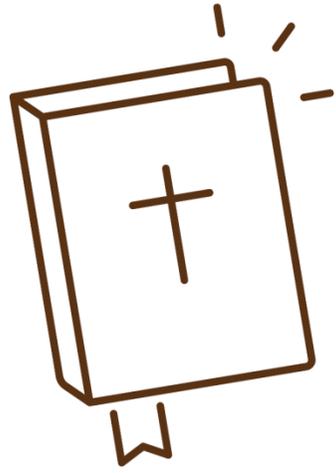
Psalm 103

is a psalm of pure worship. Unlike most of David's psalms, there are no petitions for help or cries for deliverance. David just focuses on the Lord and His great blessings and overflows in worship.

Charles Spurgeon thought,

“We should attribute it to his later years when he had a higher sense of the preciousness of pardon, because a keener sense of sin, than in his younger days. His clear sense of the frailty of life indicates his weaker years, as also does the very fulness of his praiseful gratitude.”



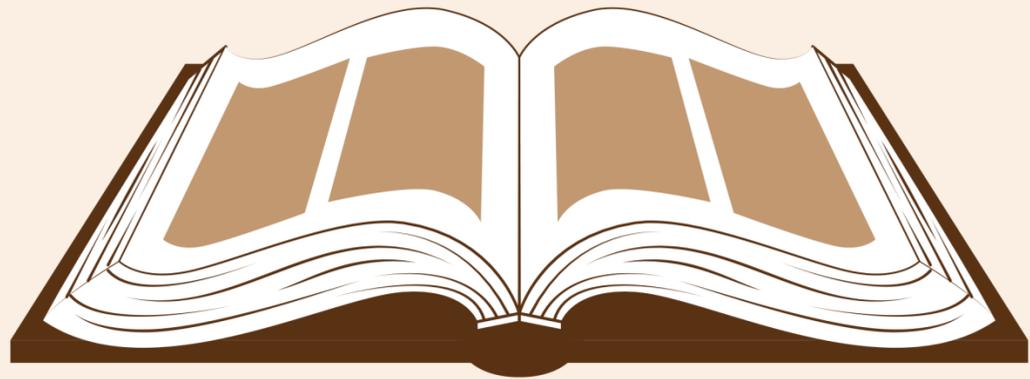


A. Reasons to bless and honor God.





1. (1-2) Blessing God for all His benefits.



Bless the LORD, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:

Reasons to bless and honor God.



2. (3-5) *Blessing God who redeems.*



Reasons to bless and honor God.

Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and
tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



3. (6-7) *Blessing God who is righteous.*

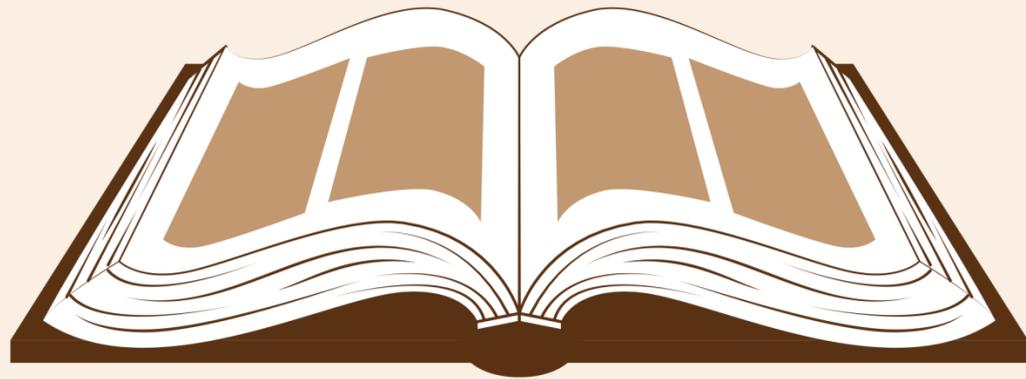


Reasons to bless and honor God.

The LORD executes righteousness
And justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the children of Israel.



4. (8-10) Blessing God who is gracious.

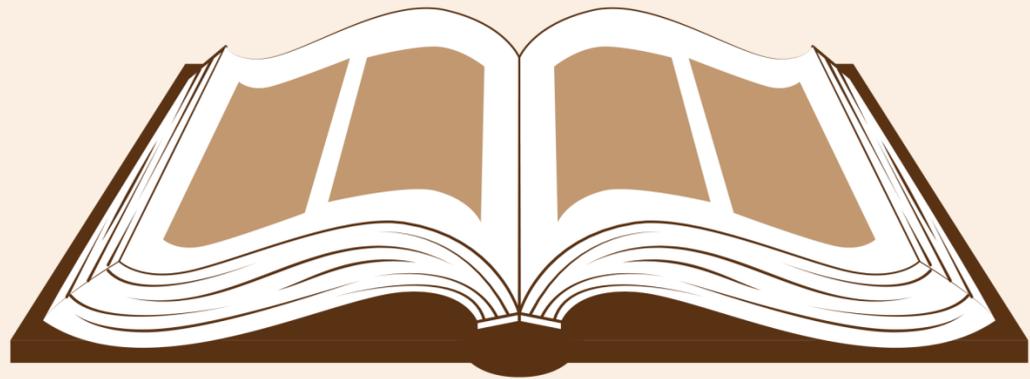


Reasons to bless and honor God.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.



5. (11-12) The greatness of God's gracious forgiveness.



Reasons to bless and honor God.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

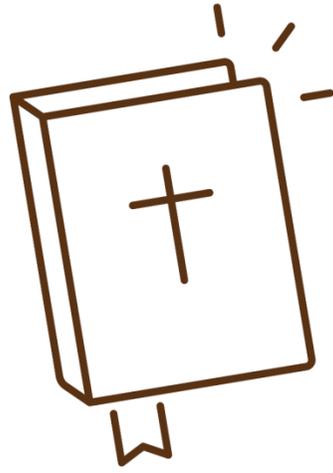


6. (13-14) Blessing God who shows great sympathy.



Reasons to bless and honor God.

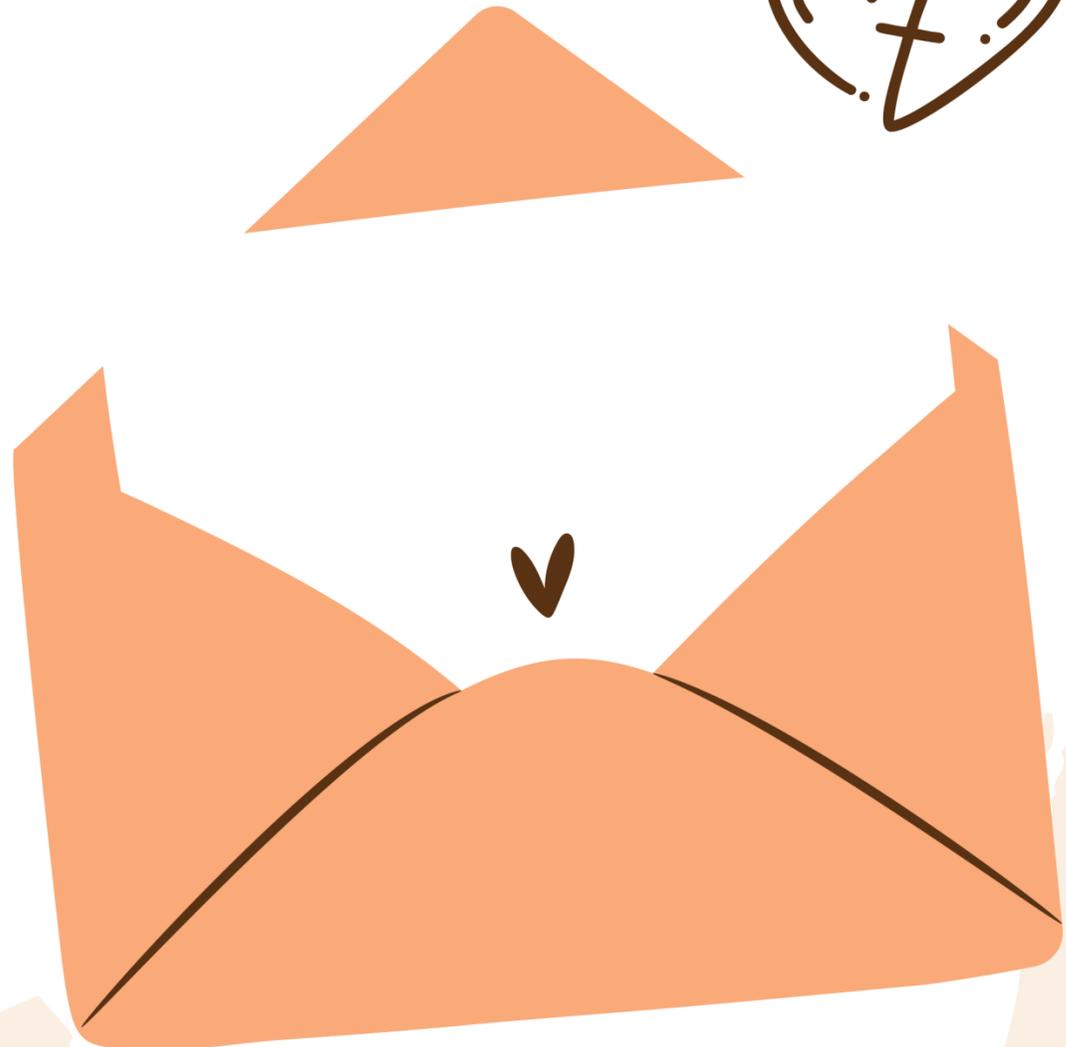
As a father pities his children,
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.



B. Contrasts that display the greatness of God.

1. (15-18) The contrast between man's moment and God's permanence.

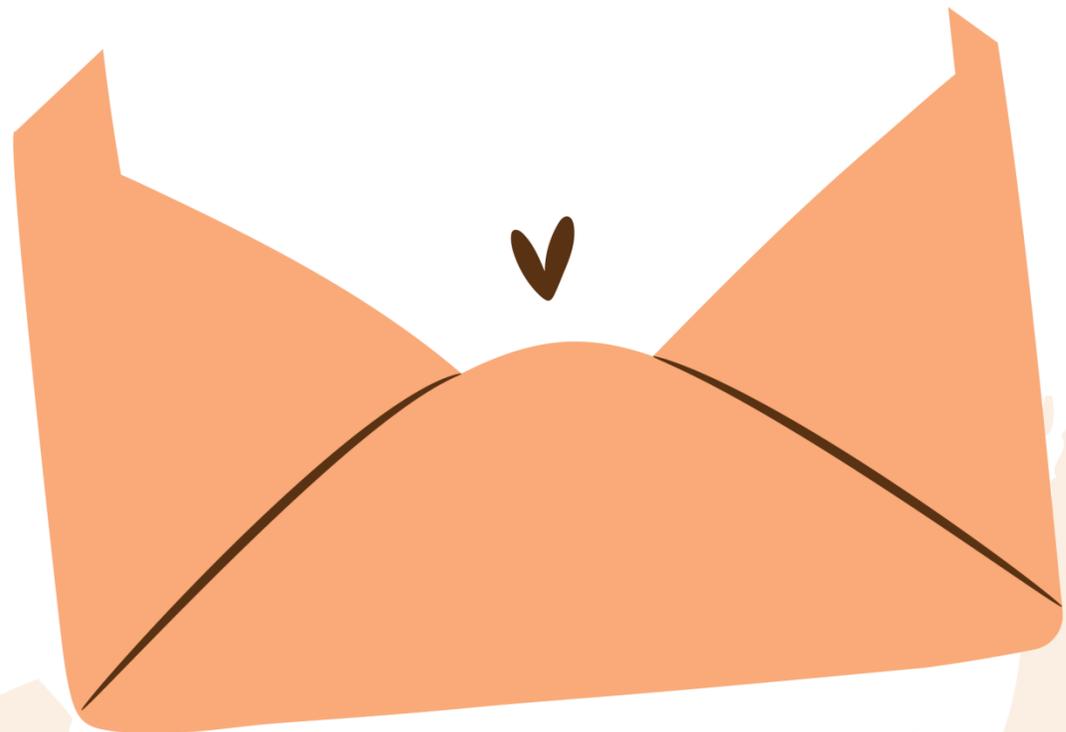
As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
And its place remembers it no more.
But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting
to everlasting
On those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
To such as keep His covenant,
And to those who remember His
commandments to do them



2. (19) The contrast between Yahweh and all creation

The LORD has established His throne in
heaven,
And His kingdom rules overall.

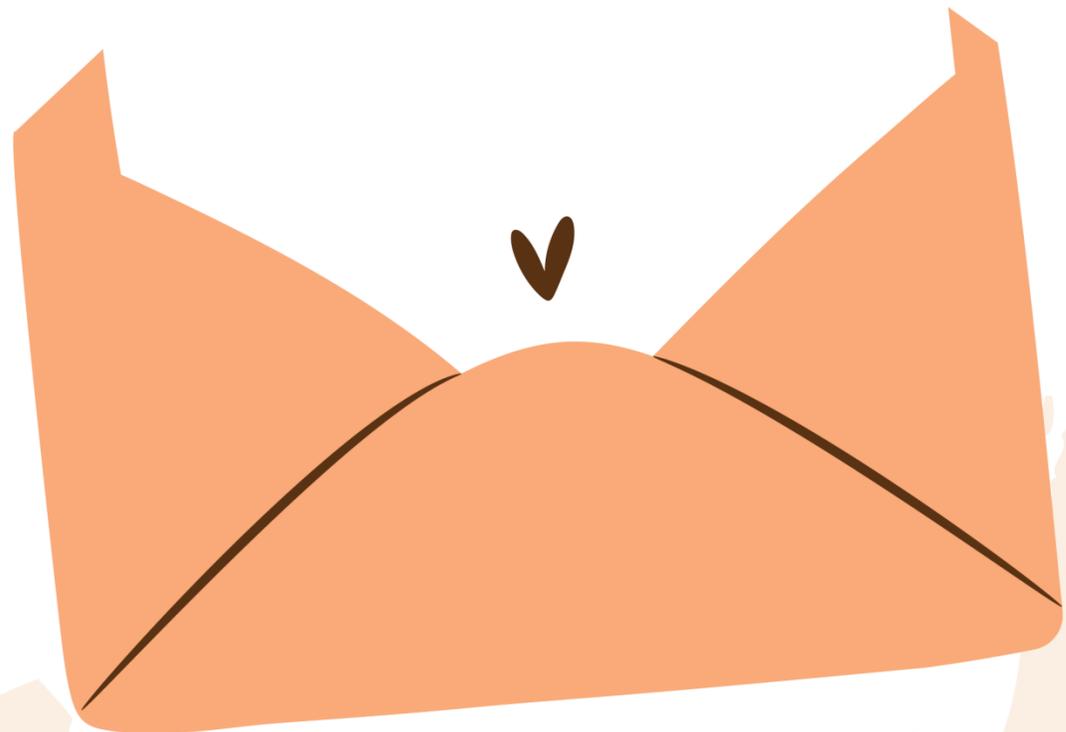
a. David celebrated God's secure reign from heaven. God is enthroned in heaven, beyond the troubles and corruptions of earth. It is established and will never be moved.

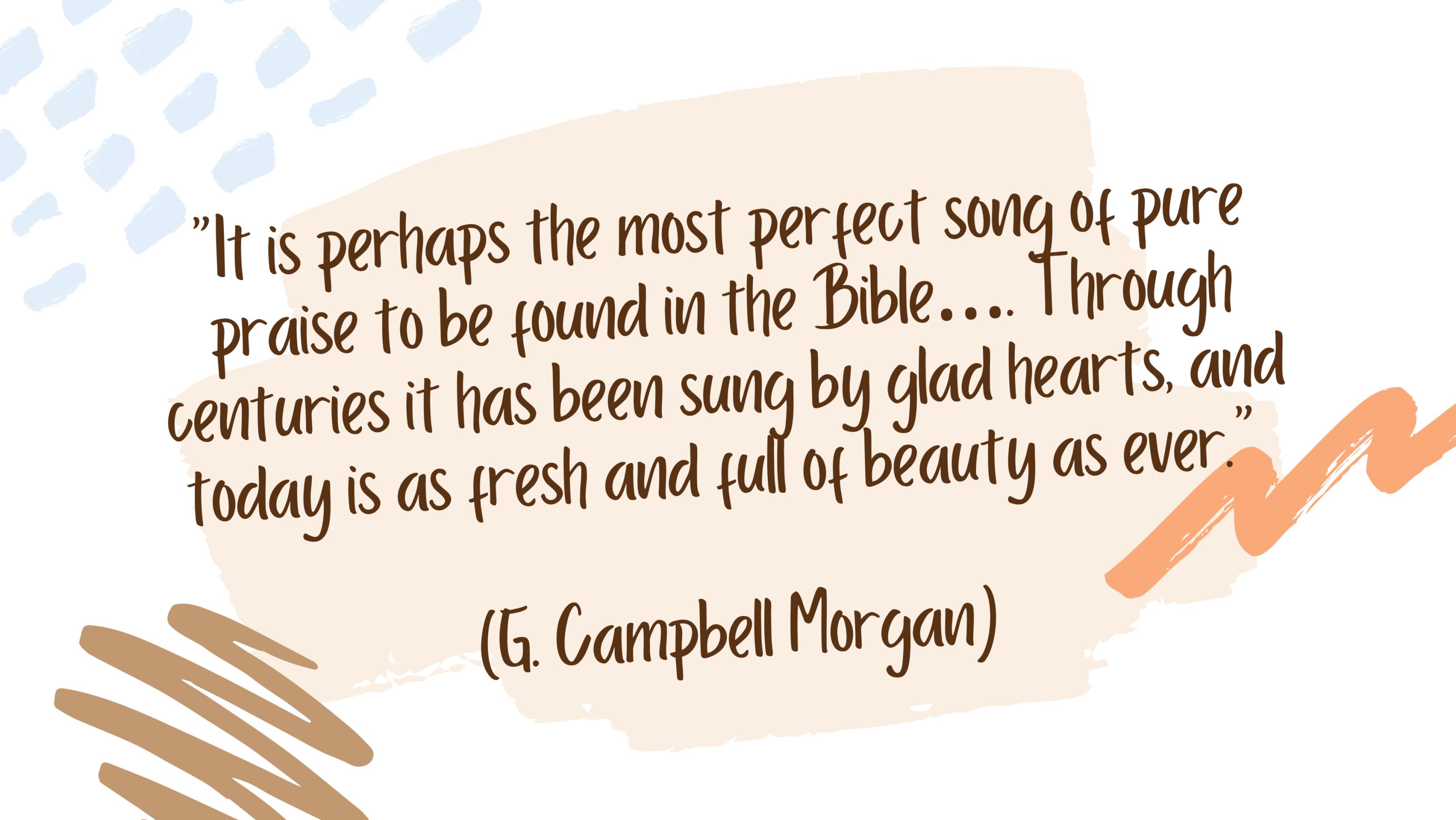


3. (20-22) The contrast between God and His angels



Bless the LORD, you His angels,
Who excel in strength, who do His word,
Heeding the voice of His word.
Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.
Bless the LORD, all His works,
In all places of His dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.





"It is perhaps the most perfect song of pure praise to be found in the Bible.... Through centuries it has been sung by glad hearts, and today is as fresh and full of beauty as ever."

(G. Campbell Morgan)