

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 with us after our sins

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