

# Psalm 102:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days.

## Analysis

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God's afflicting of the psalmist 'in the way' suggests suffering during active service, not passive waiting. Weakening strength 'in the midst of my days' means premature aging or death threatens. This honest lament acknowledges that God's servants aren't immune from suffering; indeed, their service may increase it. Christ's earthly ministry was similarly cut short by violent death 'in the midst of his days,' yet this abbreviated ministry accomplished eternal redemption. The Reformed understanding of suffering as God's sanctifying tool helps believers persevere through affliction.

## Historical Context

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Life expectancy in the ancient world was shorter than today, making death 'in the midst of days' especially tragic. The psalmist may fear dying before seeing God's promises fulfilled or completing his divinely appointed work.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain faithful service when suffering threatens to cut short your ministry?
2. What does Christ's seemingly premature death teach about trusting God's timing?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעָזָה בְּדַרְךָ כַּחֲלֵל לְקַצֵּן יְמִינֵךְ  
**He weakened in the way my strength he shortened my days**

H6031

H1870

H3581

H7114

H3117

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