

# Psalms 102:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

## Analysis

---

The pelican (qa'ath) and owl (kos) were ceremonially unclean birds (Lev 11:17-18) inhabiting desolate places, symbolizing the psalmist's isolation and uncleanness. The wilderness (midbar) location emphasizes complete separation from community and normal life. This imagery anticipates Christ's experience in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11) and His bearing of our uncleanness on the cross. For believers, such seasons of isolation can be preparatory, as God meets His people in the wilderness (Hosea 2:14).

## Historical Context

---

Pelicans and owls inhabit ruins and desolate areas. Ancient Israelites would have understood these birds as symbols of desolation and abandonment, often associated with divine judgment (Isa 34:11, Zeph 2:14).

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How has God used seasons of isolation in your life to deepen your dependence on Him?
2. What does Christ's wilderness experience teach about spiritual warfare during times of solitude?

## Interlinear Text

---

אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר	אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר	אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר	אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר	אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר	אֲנִי כַּמְּדֵבָר
I am like	a pelican	of the wilderness	H1961	I am like an owl	of the desert
H1819	H6893	H4057		H3563	H2723

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Zephaniah 2:14** (Parallel theme): And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

**Revelation 18:2** (Parallel theme): And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

**Isaiah 38:14** (Parallel theme): Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me.