

Psalm 90



A Psalm of Moses
The Man of God
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Introduction

- We take the psalm title as original,
 - Or at least as providing accurate information.
- The psalm is the only one written by Moses,
 - And therefore the earliest in the Psalter.
- The mood is rather somber.
- Perhaps it was written by Moses as he contemplated the fact that he would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land.



Psalm 90:1-2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth & the world
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.



Psalm 90:1-2

- In God we live.
 - He is our home.
- God has always been.
 - He is older than the mountains.
 - He is older than the planet.
- In fact, He made them all.
- God always will be.
 - From forever past to forever future.



Psalm 90:3-4

You turn men back to dust,
saying "Return to dust, O sons of men."
For a thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.



Psalm 90:3-4

- By contrast, man has not always been.
- His life, also, is limited by death.
- It is God who turns man back to dust.
 - An allusion to the curse in Genesis 3:19
- The longest lifespan that humans have ever had is trivial compared to God's immortality.



Psalm 90:5-6

You sweep men away in the sleep of death;
they are like the new grass of the morning –
though in the morning it springs up new,
by evening it is dry and withered.



Psalm 90:5-6

- Moses uses two pictures here:
 - Flood waters sweeping people away
 - The sun drying up plants
- God takes us away from this life.
 - It may be suddenly, like a flood.
 - It may take longer, like a plant withering.
- In any case, God is going to do it, and it won't take long.



Psalm 90:7-9

We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a groan.



Psalm 90:7-9

- Death is a fearful thing.
- Death is also an expression of God's wrath.
- None of our sins are hidden from God.
- All our life, not just death, is an expression of God's wrath.



Psalm 90:10

The length of our days is seventy years –
or eighty, if we have the strength;
Yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.



Psalm 90:10

- Even a long life will be short.
- Even the best life will be characterized by much trouble and sorrow.



Psalm 90:11-12

Who knows the power of your anger?

For your wrath is as great as the fear due you.

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.



Psalm 90:11-12

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- None of us fear God like we ought to, for all of us have a scaled-down picture of God.
- If we are going to live properly, we need to have the right perspective on what life is all about:
 - We are created beings.
 - We are fallen beings.
 - We are not God.



Psalm 90:13-15

Relent, O Lord! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy & be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have
afflicted us,

for as many years as we have seen trouble.



Psalm 90:13-15

- But life doesn't need to be all pain, sorrow, and futility.
- In God, there is compassion & mercy, if we will seek it from him.
- We can have joy & gladness, but only from God; there is no other source.
- In the love of God, we can find all the joy & gladness we have missed so far.



Psalm 90:16-17

May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us,
establish the work of our hands for us –
yes, establish the work of our hands.



Psalm 90:16-17

- To have this joy, we need to know God.
 - Who he is.
 - What he has done.
- To have any accomplishment in life, we need to have God's help.
 - He alone can establish the work of our hands.



Psalm 90

- As Moses looked across the Jordan Valley, he was reminded of the futility of life without God.
- His pride and anger had kept him from entering the Promised Land.
- Only God could establish the work of his hands.
- God did!
- One day, we too, with Moses, will enter the Promised Land!

The End (of Life)



Is not the end,
If you know Jesus!