

## Psalm 90: A Prayer of Moses 10-20-19 PM

Psalm 90 is identified as a Prayer of Moses. This would make it the oldest of the Psalms. It may be that it was written when he was 80 years old. If so, this means that it was written even before the Law of Moses was written, and before Moses had delivered Israel.

We might consider that if Moses was 80, he likely saw that his life was at its conclusion. He had been a shepherd for 40 years, having failed to deliver Israel (from his perspective). Yet it was at this moment that he was called to lead Israel out of Egypt, and he still had 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Psalm 90 is about a proper View of Life. It begins by describing God's eternal condition. God exists outside the beginning of time. The term used is "everlasting to everlasting" (Gen. 21:33). This idea is not easy to comprehend; it can mean that time's passage has no meaning.

In contrast to this is man's mortal condition. Man is like grass that sprouts anew. The life of a man flourishes for a time, but eventually it withers away. What is more problematic is Man's sinful condition, over time building up wrath. Even more problematic are our secret sins and our iniquities. At the end of our lives we face God. This is the concern that man ought to have.

Moses' wisdom to us is this: learn to number our days. This is an important idea that could be described several ways. First, it means we need to learn not to live in the future (James 4:13-16, Luke 12:16-20). We need to know that our lives are happening now, not in the future. In the same way we need to not live in the past (2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:13-14).

Instead, we need to understand that the closest we come to eternity in time is in the moment called "now". That is when we need to be right with God; not in the past, not in the future, but now. Jesus commanded us *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble"* Matthew 6:34. We need to see the potential that the moment of today has for us: *"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin"* Hebrews 3:13. Today is the day of our salvation: *"For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"* 2 Corinthians 6:2.

This means that we need to learn to live today in God's fear and mercy. This is because we know that life will be hard, and often time itself is against us (Ecclesiastes 12:1, Ephesians 5:16). It deceives us and tricks us, and ultimately works against us. Without God's mercy it will be HARDER; it will be empty and meaningless and will lead to grief. We need to learn to use this moment lay treasure aside for His glory (Matthew 6:19-20, 1 Timothy 6:18-19)