

Psalm 90

- Psalm 90 is the oldest of the Psalms, being written by Moses.
 - A prayer. It's always good to study the prayers of Godly men, especially one as favored by God as Moses - what a great title "The man of God."
 - This Psalm / Prayer gives us a vivid contrast between the Eternal God and the finite, mortal man.
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V: 1 The Lord has been their "dwelling place" - the place where they live, a refuge, a sanctuary - a safe place, or the place of safety.

Psalm 27:5 "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock."

- God has been this to all generations; He is timeless - He is always our refuge.
- Wherever we go, in whatever place we find ourselves, He is our dwelling place our refuge.
- Moses would know. Numbers Ch. 33 lists 42 different places where the children of Israel encamped during their wilderness wandering years. Moses was a sojourner, the wilderness was never his home, but Yahweh was his home, and refuge.

Ezekiel 11:16 "Therefore say, "Thus says the Lord God: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone."

- Wherever Moses was, God was his dwelling place.

Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

V: 2 "... Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

- Our God is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting.

"**EI-Olam**" "God of Eternity" or "God the Everlasting One"

Genesis 21:33 "And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God." (EI-Olam)

Isaiah 26:4 “Trust in the Lord forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (EI-Olam)

- Sometime it’s little kids, sometimes it’s bigger kids that ask “who created God?”
- Answer: **God is Self-existent**: God’s existence is not dependent upon anything outside of Himself.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

But before that:

Proverbs 8:22-23 “²²The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. ²³I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.”

Speaking to Moses, introducing Himself:

Exodus 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

- “I am that I am, I have always been...”

Isaiah 41:4 “Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am He.”

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He has always been.

V: 3 The word “destruction” means to grind to the finest particles of dust, “You turn men to dust”

In pronouncing the curse:

Genesis 3:19 “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground. For out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

Ecclesiastes 3:20 “All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.”

- God created man from the dust of the ground and He breathed life into man who became a living being. When our time is up, when our spirit and soul leave the body behind, it returns to the dust from which it came.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

- The point is the comparison: God is eternal and heavenly, men are finite and earthly. Literally the 17 elements that make up dirt or dust are the same 17 elements that make up the human body.

V: 4 Man is finite, he only has a limited time, God is not bound by time, not only is He eternal, He is outside of time altogether.

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...”

Time is totally relative to God:

2 Peter 3:8 “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

- Our measurement of time is in days and years. Our days are twenty four hours because that’s how long it takes the earth to rotate on it’s axis. Our years are three hundred and sixty five and a quarter days because that is how long it takes the earth to make its revolution around the Sun.
- But on Neptune a day is only 15 hours because it’s spinning faster. A Neptune year is 165 Earth years because it takes that long for Neptune to complete it’s orbit around the Sun.
- So we see that time is relative - and God is completely outside of time, He is eternal.

V: 5 Man’s time on earth is short, it’s like a sleep. If you’ve slept soundly, perhaps for several hours, when you wake up you might be thinking but I just fell asleep, time passes so quickly when you’re asleep, and so our lives pass quickly as well.

V: 5-6 Our lives are very temporal, temporary:

Isaiah 40:6-8 “⁶... All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

James 4:14 “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

V: 7-8 Consumed by His anger, terrified by His wrath.

- Speaking of the inevitable result of sin. God told Adam that the day he ate of the forbidden fruit, he would die. Spiritual death came first, then physical death.

Paul was only repeating the same idea when he said:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- The end result of sin leads to the wrath of God, a terrifying prospect.
- The only way out is to accept the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, who took our place, receiving the full wrath of God upon Himself so that we wouldn't have to.
- The mention here in V: 8 of God examining our iniquities is truly a terrifying thought!

Like the Psalmist - I am so grateful that:

Psalm 103:10 “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

V: 9 KJV translates: “*We finish our years like a tale that is told.*”

- A story that has been told many, many times. Nothing new under the Sun, nothing too un-usual.
- There isn't a thought or an action in our hearts, in our lives that God didn't already know about from the beginning of time, God knows the end from the beginning.

Psalm 139:1-3 “¹O Lord, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.”

V: 10-12 We have a limited amount of time even from birth. The average life span is around 70 years, perhaps we get the bonus of living to 80 - it is still limited.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

- Knowing that life is short, that we have only a limited time - teach me Lord to number my days and to use my time well.

Ephesians 5:16 “Redeem the time for the days are evil.”

- We have all wasted a lot of time on foolish things at times - we should learn to redeem our time, use what we have for eternal purposes as opposed to fleshly or foolish things.
- No one on their death bed wishes they'd played video games more, or played more baseball - their minds so often long to have redeemed their time with their loved ones and to have served God more.

V: 12-14 This is called “A prayer of Moses” and he’s made a number of statements up to this point, but now he gets to his petition, his request or the purpose of the prayer.

- This prayer like many in the Bible follows a somewhat predictable pattern:
- This prayer starts off with the acknowledgment of who He is addressing, the One who has been his dwelling place, his place of refuge who is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting.

The same template that Jesus taught His disciples:

Matthew 6:9 “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...”

- The Psalmist has declared the power of God to not only create all things, but that He ultimately has power over life and death, he doesn’t just rush in asking God for stuff. He acknowledges who God is, He praises God for the great and wonderful things He has done.
- In the petition there is the implied acknowledgment that we need His help, His provision we are humbling ourselves before Him. We need Him to do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves.

“So teach us (Lord) to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

- Next: ¹³Return, turn back to us - ¹⁴have compassion on us, be merciful to us.
- God is compassionate and merciful - so Moses is praying in a manner that is consistent with the character of God.

“That we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”

V: 15 They have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, waiting for that un-faithful generation to die off.

Genesis 47:9 “And Jacob said to Pharaoh, the days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.” (Jacob lived 147 years)

V: 16 Help us to see your works, your miraculous works! May your glory be evident to their children, our grandchildren, for generations to come.

Joshua / Judges -

Judges 2:10-12 “¹⁰When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. ¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of

the Lord, and served the Baals; ¹²and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt...”

V: 17 That the beauty of the Lord our God would be upon us, that we would reflect His glory.

- That He would establish the work of our hands, that He would direct us in every way.

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”