

Psalm 90: A Prayer of Moses

Verses 1–2 — God: Our Eternal Dwelling Place

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Moses begins by declaring that God has been the eternal refuge of His people. Long before the earth existed, God was already present. The Hebrew term for "everlasting" refers to the "vanishing point," a poetic way of describing time beyond our ability to comprehend. From that unreachable past to the equally unfathomable future, God is.

Personal Application: In every generation, God's people have found Him to be a sure dwelling place. He is our constant, even as everything else changes. Are you dwelling in Him today?

Verses 3–6 — Human Frailty vs. Divine Timelessness

"You turn man to destruction, and say, 'Return, O children of men.' For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night."

Time is not the same for God as it is for us. While we measure life by days and decades, God sees it in a broader, eternal perspective. To Him, a thousand years pass like a brief moment. Human life, by contrast, is fleeting—like grass that grows in the morning and withers by evening.

Personal Application: Recognize the brevity of life. Let it cause you to seek the eternal. Your time here is limited—make it count for what lasts.

Verses 7–11 — Sin, Judgment, and Awareness

"For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance."

Moses acknowledges the consequences of sin and God's righteous response to it. Even the hidden parts of our lives are exposed to His light. Our lives, marred by sin and shortened by mortality, pass quickly.

Personal Application: God sees all things, even what we try to hide. Instead of concealing sin, confess it. Walk in the light and live in reverence of a holy God.

Verse 12 — The Heart of the Prayer

"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

This is the cry of a humble soul seeking to live wisely in the light of life's brevity. Time is a gift, and wisdom teaches us to steward it well.

Personal Application: Ask the Lord daily to help you live purposefully. Time is not to be wasted. Each day matters. Invest it wisely.

Verses 13–16 — Restoration and Mercy Requested

"Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!"

Moses turns from reflection to intercession. He pleads for God to act in compassion, to satisfy and restore His people. He asks for gladness and for God's work to be evident not only to the current generation but to their children.

Personal Application: Ask God to renew your joy and let your life be a testimony of His mercy. Pray that your children would see God at work through you.

Verse 17 — A Beautiful Benediction

"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands."

This final prayer captures the longing of every believer: to reflect the beauty of God and to see lasting fruit from the labor of their life. Moses isn't asking for ease, but for eternal value.

Personal Application: Pray this regularly: "Lord, let Your beauty be seen in me. Establish what I do so that it has meaning beyond this life." Let your daily efforts be touched with God's grace.

Conclusion:

Psalms 90 is a sobering yet hope-filled meditation on God's eternity and human mortality. It doesn't diminish the pain of a fallen world but lifts our eyes to an eternal God who is both our refuge and our Redeemer. Use your limited time on earth to seek His wisdom, reflect His beauty, and leave a legacy that glorifies Him.