

Psalm 90 Time

1 <<A Prayer of Moses the man of God.>> Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.
3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.
4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.
5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.
6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.
7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.
8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.
9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.
10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.
12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
13 Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.
14 O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15 Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.
16 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.
17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

I. Superscription

- A. Prayer - *tehellim*
- B. Author - Moses, the man of God. This is the only Psalm authored by Moses.

II. Literary Features

- A. God's eternity and existence apart from time - Psalm 90:1-6.
- B. God's omniscience and wrath against man's sin as evidenced by our limited time - Psalm 90:7-11.
- C. Moses' prayer for wisdom in light of his short life when compared with God's - Psalm 90:12.
- D. God's ability to bring meaning to man's short life when lived to God's glory - Psalm 90:13-17.

III. Religious Ideas

- A. God is timeless - vv. 1,4
God exists! Time is meaningless to God since He lives outside the boundaries of time. Before time existed, God was, after time ends, God will be.
- B. Man is temporal - vv. 9-11

On the other hand, man is bounded by time. We have, in an earthly sense, a beginning (birth), and ending (death).

However, man is also eternal in the sense that we will never cease to exist. After death, man enters the timeless eternity in which he will live either in the presence of God, or live separated from God in the Lake of Fire.

C. Man requires wisdom in order to spend his allotted time wisely - v. 12

So how should we live seeing that we are temporal. Note the following passages:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ephesians 5:15-17

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

1 Peter 1:17

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

1 Peter 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Romans 13:11

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

2 Corinthians 6:2

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

D. Without God, our time is futile and meaningless - vv. 3-9 compared to vv. 13-17

Job 5:7

Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Ecclesiastes 12:7-8

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.