

# PSALM 90 – THE ETERNITY OF GOD AND THE FRAILTY OF MAN

## Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 90** – a psalm/prayer of “Moses, the man of God”
  - a) Moses was God’s chosen man to lead Israel from Egyptian bondage in the Exodus (Ex. 3:10)
  - b) He was a humble and faithful servant of God (Num. 12:3, 6-8)
  - c) This is the only psalm credited to him in the book of Psalms; he is the author of other songs recorded in Exodus 15 and in Deuteronomy 32 and 33
- 2) In this inspired psalm, Moses contemplates the eternal nature of God and the frailty of man
  - a) Has been suggested that it could be connected with the time period of **Numbers 20**
    - i) During the wilderness wandering, the death of Miriam, the sin at Meribah that prevented him from entering the Promised Land, and the death of Aaron

## I) **GOD: Everlasting to Everlasting (vv. 1-2)**

- A) God is man’s constant and secure dwelling place (v. 1)
  - 1) God sustained Moses and Israel throughout the wilderness wanderings – refuge, shelter, protection (cf. Deut. 33:27a)
- B) God is from “everlasting to everlasting” – exists eternally above and without time (v. 2)
  - 1) The “I am” – the infinite, eternal Creator of all the finite, transient creation
  - 2) The Messiah, the Son of God, is “from everlasting” (Micah 5:2)
  - 3) The “eternal Spirit” (Heb. 9:14)

## II) **MAN: Frail and Under Judgment (vv. 3-12)**

- A) Man is made of the dust of the earth and will return to it (Gen. 2:7; 3:19)
- B) Time affects man but has no impact on God – no “long” or “short” time (vv. 3-4)
  - 1) Thousand years like yesterday (cf. 2 Pet. 3:8)
- C) Man’s life is very finite – many years pass as though they are nothing (vv. 5-6)
  - 1) Carried away quickly like a flood
  - 2) Short span like a period of sleep
  - 3) Temporary like grass that grows in the morning and is cut at evening (cf. Isa. 40:6-8)
- D) Man is always under the watchful eye of God’s judgment (vv. 7-8)
  - 1) Our sins stir up the justified wrath of God (Rom. 1:18)
  - 2) Our sins, even the secret ones, are set before God (cf. Psa. 19:12)
- E) Man’s basic lifespan is short and difficult – 70-80 years (vv. 9-11)
  - 1) Finished like a sigh; man is soon cut off and flies away
  - 2) Man should understand and fear the power and wrath of God
  - 3) We need God to teach us to “number our days” that we may gain a “heart of wisdom”
    - a) “Number our days” – consider how few and important they are (cf. Eph. 5:15-17)
    - b) “Heart of wisdom” – know the purpose and goal of our brief lives (cf. Eccl. 12:13-14)

## III) **MAN’S NEED: Divine Mercy and Compassion (vv. 13-17)**

- A) At the heart of God is love and a desire for reconciliation (cf. 1 Jn. 4:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)
- B) God can make us glad and rejoice all our days – we must not waste our days!
- C) Our lives will be a balance of gladness and sorrow – seek God’s glory through it all
- D) May God’s beauty [grace and favor] be on us and establish our ways

## Conclusion

If you want your life to have meaning and to leave a lasting legacy, let God establish your ways so that He may have favor on your faith and obedience. Live each day according to God’s wisdom.