

PSALM 90

Psalm 90 *“A Prayer of Moses the man of God.*

*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.*

*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.*

*You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass
which grows up:*

In the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers.

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.

For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh.

*The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet
their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

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

Return, O Jehovah! 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!

*Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, the years in which we have
seen evil.*

Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children.

*And let the beauty of Jehovah our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for
us; yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

I. “LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR DWELLING PLACE” (1)

Moses brings with him unique insight when he calls God “our dwelling place”!

- A.** **Acts 7:20-23** *“At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months. But when he was set out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.”*

Moses spent the majority of his first 40 years being raised as Pharaoh’s grandson. While we commend Pharaoh’s daughter for her compassion in

sparing his life, we must remember Moses's parents were alive. They were not disabled or drug addicts or in prison or otherwise incapable of raising their child; in fact, their other children Aaron and Miriam were still under the roof. It was only due to Pharaoh's genocidal command that his life was endangered as an infant. Moses grew up with that man's family.

- B.** **Acts 7:23-30** *"Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?' Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons. And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai."* Moses spent the second 40 years of his life as a refugee in Midian, marrying his wife and raising his sons without them knowing his parents or siblings.
- C.** **Numbers 14:29-34** *"The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day*

you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.”

Because they sinned by rejecting the good land they were provided and complaining to God, the generation that left Egypt was prohibited from entering the land of promise, so Moses led them through the wilderness during the third 40 years of his life.

- D. Moses, who was a stranger in the house he was raised in for 40 years, who was a stranger in the land he raised his children in for 40 years, and who led his people through 40 years of wilderness wanderings, knew what he was talking about when he called God our dwelling place!

II. “IN ALL GENERATIONS” (1)

Moses’s forebears were similarly experienced.

- A. **Genesis 12:1** *“Now Jehovah had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’”*

Centuries before Moses, his forefather Abraham dwelt with God, but not in the land of his ancestors.

- B. **Genesis 15:13** *“He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.’”*

Abraham’s descendants, who included Moses, were afflicted with a 400-year sojourn in Egypt.

- C. **Hebrews 11:38-40** *“Of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”*

Among the greatest heroes of faith who ever walked the earth, many were deprived of a permanent home on earth, but they knew God to be their dwelling place!

III. "FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, YOU ARE GOD" (2)

- A. **Daniel 7:19** *"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him."*

God is the Ancient of Days. He is eternal.

- B. **Isaiah 46:9-10** *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"*

God's everlasting nature allows Him to exist outside time and see everything that has happened or will happen. His eternality makes Him omniscient and His omniscience makes Him reliable. We trust Him as our refuge.

- C. **Revelation 22:13** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

The Son of God is as eternal as the Father.

- D. **Hebrews 13:8** *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

Our everlasting Lord Jesus is always the same. He is dependable, and, therefore, a fitting refuge, a dwelling place for all generations.

IV. "YOU TURN MAN TO DESTRUCTION, AND SAY, 'RETURN, O CHILDREN OF MEN.'" (3)

- A. **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."*

Since the first man sinned, all have lived under the curse of death, returning to the dust from which we were created.

- B.** **Hebrews 9:27** *"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."*

Since death is universal, it is essential to know what follows.

V. "FOR WE HAVE BEEN CONSUMED BY YOUR ANGER, AND BY YOUR WRATH WE ARE TERRIFIED."

(7)

- A.** **Psalms 95:7b-11** *"Today, if you will hear His voice: 'Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with that generation, and said, "It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways." So I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest."'"*

This and other psalms (78:1-54; 106:6-33) reminded Israel of the sins of their forefathers in the wilderness and the punishments meted out by the Almighty.

- B.** **1st Corinthians 10:1-11** *"Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.' Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."*

Nearly all of the Israelites rescued from Egyptian bondage were indeed consumed in God's anger. What happened to them was recorded for us to learn from.

C. **Hebrews 12:29** *"Our God is a consuming fire."*

As much as we appreciate His mercy and His grace, we must also bear in mind He is a God who punishes.

VI. **"YOU HAVE SET OUR INIQUITIES BEFORE YOU, OUR SECRET SINS IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COUNTENANCE."** (8)

A. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."*

Jehovah knows everything we do, right or wrong. He will judge it all. The only way to prepare is to obey Him fully.

B. **Mark 4:22** *"There is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret that it should not come to light."*

Jesus echoed this sentiment, reminding us that all secrets will be illuminated.

VII. **"THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES ARE SEVENTY YEARS."** (10)

A. **Deuteronomy 34:7** *"Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished."*

It is likely Moses composed this psalm very near the end of his life, so that he was already at or pushing 120 years when he acknowledged that an ordinary lifespan is one third less than he had already lived. Exceptions prove the rule.

B. **Joshua 14:6-7** *"Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: 'You know the word which Jehovah said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.'"*

Since Caleb was 40 when he spied out the land of Canaan and the wilderness wandering lasted 40 years, then he was 80 when Israel crossed the Jordan.

- C. **Numbers 14:29-30** *“The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.”*

Aside from Caleb and Joshua, no one under 60 entered the land of promise. So, other than these 2 men, every single person Moses knew, his entire nation, was half his age! Not a single person in Scripture who lived after the days of Moses is recorded to have lived as long as he did. The average lifespan of a human remains, to this day, between 70-80 years. That is quite brief in view of God’s unending existence.

- D. **Ephesians 5:15-16** *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

Make good use of what time you have.

VIII. “LET YOUR WORK APPEAR TO YOUR SERVANTS.” (16)

- A. **Deuteronomy 34:4-5** *“Jehovah said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants.” I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ So Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of Jehovah.”*

Moses only saw, but did not enter, the Promised Land. His prayer was that His people would see it.

- B. **Deuteronomy 33:26-29** *“There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to help you, and in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, ‘Destroy!’ Then Israel shall dwell in*

safety, the fountain of Jacob alone, in a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by Jehovah, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, and you shall tread down their high places.”

Moses blessed Israel before his death, telling them of the promises that would be fulfilled for them.