

Series: Psalms

Title: A Prayer of Moses

Text: Ps 90

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The heading says this is «**A Prayer of Moses the man of God.**»

Moses is in the wilderness. Remember, the people wanted to spy out Canaan. Then they brought back an evil report of unbelief. So God told Moses they would wander forty years in the wilderness until those twenty years old and above died—forty years for the forty days that they searched Canaan. Of those men, only Joshua and Caleb would be delivered because they had another spirit—they believed God.

So all that time that Moses was with them in the waste howling wilderness. He dwelt in a tent. He was a pilgrim. He was stranger in the land. As he sojourned trusting God to deliver him to the land of Canaan, according to God's promise.

A COMFORTING TRUTH

Psalm 90: 1: Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Moses was in the howling wilderness dwelling in a tent, as a stranger, sojourning through the land. And he says, “Lord, thou hast been the dwelling place of your elect, chosen, beloved, believing people in all generations. Our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob dwelt in tents as sojourners in this land and now here we are in this wilderness dwelling in tents. But the Lord who was the dwelling place of our fathers is also our dwelling place.

You and I say, “Now here we are dwelling in tents; sojourning as strangers in a foreign land, passing through this waste, howling wilderness. But the Lord who was the dwelling place of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Jeremiah, Ezekiel is also our dwelling place.

What a comforting truth to think on! There is no safer, surer dwelling place than in the Lord! Look at Psalm 91.

Psalm 91: 1: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2: I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

The Lord is the sure and safe dwelling place for his people because he is eternal and unchanging.

Psalm 90: 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.

Kevin and Kimberly went to Yosemite. I got online and was looking at pictures of that giant mountain of granite, El Capitan. That mountain was there, same as Mt Sinai, way back when Moses was in the wilderness praying these words. Think of the generations those mountains have seen. Some might say those mountains would be a good dwelling place. They have been around a long time.

But God's elect were in our dwelling place before he brought forth those mountains—even before he formed the earth and the world—our dwelling place is eternal and unchanging—*“even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”*

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD [says] Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:...

And because God promises that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus when El Capitan and Mt Sinai, even this earth and the world are no more by God's everlasting, unchanging love and grace, we shall be still in our dwelling place.

Psalm 90: 1: 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.

OUR FLESHLY TENTS

Psalm 90: 3: Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

He says, “Lord, Thou turnest man back to the dust from which you made him. Thou sayest to man, “Return to the dust, ye children of men.” God formed Adam's body of the dust of the earth. We are made of the dust of the earth. And God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. But due to the fall, due to Adam's one transgression, sin entered and death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. God said in the garden.

Genesis 3: 19: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, TILL THOU RETURN UNTO THE GROUND; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, AND UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.

God holds our life in store

Job 12:10: In whose hand *is* the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

By God's word we were created, by God's word we die and these fleshly tents return to the dust.

Psalm 104:29...thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Job 34:14: If he set his heart upon man, *if* he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; 15: All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

Men, including God's believing people, do not die because we get sick or have a car wreck or grow old. We die when God says we die. We die at the time appointed by God, not one second before or after. By his word we were created, by his word we live, by his word we die—*“THOU turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.”*

Psalm 90: 4: For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

What is time to eternal God? America declared independence in 1776. Think of what all has happened in this country since then. But that is only 245 years. A thousand years in God's sight is but as yesterday when it is past. A thousand years in God's sight is as *a watch* in the

night. Some say there are three watches in the night, some say there are four. But a thousand years in God's sight is not even a whole night, only a single night watch. God is eternal

But what is man? What is our life? What are we and what is our life before eternal God?

Psalm 90: 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.

God carries man away, generation after generation, as with a flood. We are like a sheep led about. We are like grass. Man's life—mine and yours—is a vapor. We are not mighty oaks, we are grass. Our lifespan is like grass in a single day—*in the morning it flourishes and grows up and in the evening it is cut down and withereth away*. Sown, grown, mown, blown, gone. That is our life just like grass.

Moses was wandering in the wilderness seeing the children of Israel die every day. Most who refused to believe God.

Psalm 90: 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:

They spied out Canaan forty days and came back with an evil report of unbelief. They would not believe God and so they could not enter because of unbelief. God said, "*So I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest.*"

Since they would not believe on the Lord, *God set their iniquities before him, even their secret sins in light of his countenance. All their days were passed away in his wrath.* God made them wander forty years until those twenty years old and above died in the wilderness. Think of that. Moses saw around 603, 500 people die. By our calendar, it averages to 41 people a day.

MOSES WISE WORD

Psalm 90: 10: The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten [70 years]; and if by reason of strength *they be* [80] 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.

Seeing the sad end of those who believed not and seeing the brevity of our days—*Lord teach us to number our days, that we apply our hearts to wisdom.* Let us flee to Christ. Christ is Wisdom. If we would apply our hearts to wisdom let us seek Christ every day.

He put away the sin of his people by his blood by bearing justice on our behalf. He purged the sins of his people. Every sinner who comes to Christ for mercy shall be given mercy. Believing on Christ, God imputes Christ's righteousness to us and will not impute sin because Christ put away the sin of those God regenerates and draws to Christ. God says to every sinner who believes on Christ, "*I remember thy sins no more; there is no more offering for sin.*"

Romans 4:8: Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Let us apply our hearts to wisdom every day. Let us come to Christ asking God for mercy for ourselves and for all God's servants as Moses did.

Psalm 90: 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.

By God's mercy, God gives free forgiveness through faith in Christ. Thus God satisfies us with Christ alone. It is God's mercy in Christ that makes us rejoice. It is God's mercy in Christ that makes us glad all our days. When God's affliction brings us to Christ, he makes us glad according to the days of our affliction. With God a day is as a thousand years. He makes us glad for eternity! It is God's work and God's glory in the redemption accomplished by Christ for his people that makes us satisfied.

Psalm 90: 16: Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

Beholding Christ who satisfied God on our behalf makes us satisfied. HE makes us rejoice and be glad all our days

Psalm 90: 17: And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us:

It is Christ's beauty upon us that makes us accepted with God. LORD, let thy beauty—Christ's Righteousness, Christ's Holiness—make us beautiful in your beauty. Let us be found in thy righteousness alone—thy beauty.

Psalm 90: 17:... and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Let us ask God to bless us in every work. He shall do so for his own name's sake. And overall, he will keep us believing and resting in Christ and coming to his throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 3: 6: Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:...11: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12: For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13: Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Amen!