

June 12, 2011
"The Eternity of God"
Psalm 90

I. *The eternity of God vs. the shortness of man's life on earth –*

1. *God as the Dwelling Place of His people –*
 - A. *Moses' view from the wilderness*
 - B. *Moses' view as the human writer of the Pentateuch*
 - C. *A view beyond Moses – Hebrews 13:14; Philippians 3:20*

For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. (Hebrews 13:14 NKJ)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philippians 3:20 NKJ)

2. *God as beyond this world, ETERNAL – Psalm 90:2*

Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:2 NKJ)

3. *This means God has an eternal perspective – Psalm 90:4*

For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:4 NKJ)

4. *Our human life in comparison is extremely SHORT, we are:*
 - A. *Carried away like a flood – You carry them away like a flood (Psalm 90:5a NKJ)*
 - B. *Like a "sleep" or dream – They are like a sleep. (Psalm 90:5b NKJ)*
 - C. *Like mid-east desert grass – In the morning they are like grass which grows up: (Psalm 90:5c NKJ)*

*Stout and strong today
Tomorrow turned to clay
This day in his bloom
The next, in the tomb*

II. *The wrath of God vs. our tendency to procrastinate with sin –*

1. *We need to see death, as Moses did, according to the Word of God – Romans 6:23*

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

2. *Moses watched many of his companions die in the wilderness, he rightly viewed this as the wrath of God against sin – Psalm 90:7*

For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. (Psalm 90:7 NKJ)

3. *The theory of Evolution tells us death is just a natural end of life, there no moral element –*
4. *He served an all-knowing God Who saw and judged all "iniquities" – Psalm 90:8*

You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. (Psalm 90:8 NKJ)

5. *We live our lives on this earth, under God's wrath and curse – Psalm 90:9*

For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. (Psalm 90:9 NKJ)

6. *See the LIMITS placed on our days –*

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. (Psalm 90:10 NKJ)

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." (Genesis 6:3 NKJ)

This represents a great reduction from the life spans before the flood –

⁸ **So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. (Gen 5:8 NKJ)**

¹¹ **So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. (Gen 5:11 NKJ)**

¹⁴ **So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. (Gen 5:14 NKJ)**

¹⁷ **So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. (Gen 5:17 NKJ)**

²⁰ **So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. (Gen 5:20 NKJ)**

²⁷ **So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. (Gen 5:27 NKJ)**

7. *God's wrath is as great as He is –*

Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. (Psalm 90:11 NKJ)

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:11 NKJ)

“Use one: Here is thunder and lightning to the wicked. God is eternal, therefore the torments of the wicked are eternal. God lives forever; and as long as God lives he will be punishing the damned ... Oh eternity! If all the body of the earth and sea were turned to sand, and all the air up to the starry heaven were nothing but sand, and a little bird should come every thousand years, and fetch away in her bill but the tenth part of a grain of all that heap of sand, what numberless years would be spent before that vast heap of sand would be fetched away! Yet, if at the end of all that time, the sinner might come out of hell, there would be some hope; but that word 'Ever' breaks the heart.” Thomas Watson

III. How should we respond to these great truths?

1. Pray for a Divine education in regard to time and eternity –
So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12 NKJ)

A. The Bible teaches an eternal perspective –
For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJ)

B. The Bible teaches us to live for things beyond this world and time –
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20 NKJ)

God of the heights, austere, inspiring, Thy word hath come to me,
O let no selfish aims, conspiring, distract my soul from Thee.
Loosen me from things of time; strengthen me for steadfast climb.

The temporal would bind my spirit; Father be Thou my stay.
Show me what flesh cannot inherit, stored for another day.
Be transparent, things of time. Looking through you, I would climb.

Now by Thy grace my spirit chooses, treasure that shall abide
The great Unseen, I know, endures, my footsteps shall not slide.
Not for me the things of time, God of mountains, I will climb!"

Amy Carmichael

2. Pray for a relationship with God based on His compassion and mercy –

Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.¹⁴ Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil. (Psalm 90:13-15 NKJ)

A. Pray for the LORD's return

B. Pray for compassion and early mercy –

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Psa 103:11-14 NKJ)

C. We should rejoice in God's mercy

D. We should use trials in our plea for mercy

3. Pray for an understanding of God's work, an appreciation of His glory which will continue to our children –

Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. (Psalm 90:16 NKJ)

4. Pray that God's beauty would be upon our lives in this wilderness and that He would establish the works of our hands

–
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. (Psalm 90:17 NKJ)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 NKJ)