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Psalm 90

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 90.

Topics.

- God has been Israel's dwelling place in all generations.
- A thousand years to God are as yesterday when they are past.
- We are dismayed, we are brought to an end by God's wrath.
- The years of our life are seventy, yet their span is but toil and trouble.
- Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- Let work be shown to your servants, and your power to their children.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FOUR (PSALM 90-106)

PSALM 90:1-2

A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God.

God has Been Israel's Dwelling Place in all Generations.

- **Psalm 90:1-2:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Everlasting to everlasting means, in the eternal God, there is no beginning and no end that is why everlasting to everlasting is such an appropriate term. God dwells outside of our time zone in eternity where there is no time, a concept we cannot comprehend with our mortal finite minds. This is why God was able to inspire the prophets He has already seen the end of sinful mankind upon the earth and in His eternal mind and foreknowledge has planned and purposed mankind's eternal salvation before the beginning of time accordingly.

PSALM 90:3-6

A Thousand Years to God are as Yesterday when they are Past.

- **Psalm 90:3-6:** You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

This Psalm of Moses presents his overall view of mankind from birth to death. Since God is eternal a thousand years is as a day, which means a human lifespan is but a blink of the eye in God's sight. As Moses ponders death it appears that God simply sweeps humanity away as the roaring rapids of a flood sweep everything in their path away. Of course, this is true in the sense that every new born baby born into this world is destined to die. Even the faithful cannot escape mortal death, though they will be raised from it, but before they are raised to eternal life they will pass through the valley of the shadow of death.

- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4).

Death here is called a shadow because it is only a temporary death for the faithful. Grass is a perfect example of human life, it grows to a lush green outdoor carpet that is beautiful to walk on and pleasant to the eye, throughout its life it suffers extreme dry seasons, fires, and the most-muddy condition, until it finally withers and dies. Likewise, human life suffers all sorts of joys, celebrations, grief's, troubles and hardships until the body withers and dies and returns to the dust of the ground from where it came.

PSALM 90:7-9

We are Dismayed, we are Brought to an End by God's Wrath.

- **Psalm 90:7-9:** For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. ⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

To get a better understanding of Moses perspective it helps if one imagines themselves sitting in heaven looking down upon earth and observing the life of those who are dwelling upon it. Mankind lives under God's watchful eye that not only sees all our outward sins, but also all our secret sins that dwell within the heart and mind of all who dwell upon earth, yet they go about living their life indifferent to God and without any fear of his wrath against wickedness and sin and then when the darkness of death comes near it is as though life has, past them like a fading sigh because it has past so quickly.

Moses words, "All our days pass away under your wrath (v9) mean that every moment of every day we all live under the curse of death. Death is the wrath of God against sin and because we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) we are all under the curse of death. It could be said that we live in the long day of death and the long day of grace. To escape the long day of death and enter the long day of grace we must confess and acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ (in contrast to denying him), and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead and trust in his righteousness and not our own self-righteousness, if we do this we no longer live under the curse of death. (Rom. 10:9-10).

Jesus said:

- Whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:15-16).
- Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18).
- I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. (John 11:25).

PSALM 90:10-11

The Years of Our Life are Seventy, their Span is Toil and Trouble.

- **Psalm 90:10-11:** The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

To every general rule of things there are always exceptions looking at mankind collectively the lifespan is maxed out at seventy to eighty years, obviously history shows there have been exceptions, but this is the general rule of the collective whole. If it was possible for one to sit upon a star and observe mankind the conclusion they would come to is that humans (as a collective whole) live as they please totally devoid of any fear of God's judgment and spend all their life working to add material possessions to their lives, giving no time or thought toward God just to have death at the end of it all come and take them to the darkness of the grave never to rise again.

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family. Mankind's life without God is like a tale that is told, because humans have strength in the day, but it fades in the evening, but is strengthened again for the next day only to wither again in the evening and all of these days accumulate into years that are filled with moments of joy, toil and trouble and when a person's days are ended God sends them to the grave and they are forgotten amongst the living and the cycle of life continues as it always has.

PSALM 90:12-14

Teach us to Number our Days that we May Get a Heart of Wisdom.

- **Psalm 90:12-14:** So, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. ¹³Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Moses in the following verses asks God to make Israel glad for as many days as He has afflicted them and show His glorious power to their children which means that it is most likely Moses is writing this Psalm during one of the following two periods of time.

1. While he was in bondage to Egypt and called by God to deliver His people from the bondage of Pharaoh King of Egypt and the afflictions of his taskmasters, clearly God answered Moses request to show the children of Israel His great power through the ten plaques and the parting of the Red Sea.

2. Sometime during Israel's forty years in the wilderness. Moses had seen the rebellion of those he led through the Red Sea, refusing to obey God and cross the River Jordan and march into the Promised Land. In this scenario God clearly answered Moses request to show the children of Israel His great power through parting the River Jordan and leading them into the Promised Land and the miraculous collapse of the city of Jericho etc.

Moses prays that God would give his people a heart of wisdom and that the LORD'S favour and steadfast love would return to them and they would once again rejoice in the Lord their God. Here we see the true heart of a shepherd and why God called Moses to lead his people out of Egypt. God by His great power did many mighty wonders for His people, but instead of having a heart of gratitude they constantly complained and refused to obey God's voice, yet Moses rather than call God's wrath down upon them always interceded for them.

PSALM 90:15-17

Let Work be Shown to Your Servants, your Power to their Children.

- **Psalm 90:15-17:** Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Since Moses never entered the Promised Land the many days God has afflicted them with would refer to the forty years in the wilderness or the four-hundred years in Egypt. The evil they have seen can apply to the cruel oppression of the Egyptian taskmasters or to wilderness generation who refused to obey the word of the LORD and cross the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
