

Psalms 90

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 90 - and as we make our way to the 90th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - this is the first Psalm - found in the fourth section of this book.

I'll remind you - it was back in our study of the first Psalm - when I informed you that...

...the book of Psalms has been divided up into 5 sections - with each section ending with a doxology...

...like "Praise the Lord!" - or "Amen."

It's also interesting to note that - some scholars have suggested that these five sections - reflect the five books of the Torah...

...which include - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

What this means is that - this fourth section of Psalms includes songs that reflect the main theme found in the book of Numbers.

Just to be clear - the book of Numbers presents with God's faithfulness during a time of Israel's rebellion.

And it's here in this section of Psalms - where we find 17 Psalms...

...that glorify the God Who faithfully rules over His Creation.

Here in the first Psalm of this fourth section - we find the prayer of Moses.

It's for this reason that several scholars insist that this is the oldest Psalm found in the entire book.

For example - Professor William Barrick confirms this in his commentary of this Psalm - by declaring...

As a poem written by Moses, it is the oldest psalm in the Psalter. Moses also penned the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15). His final poem is known as the "Song of Moses" (Deuteronomy 32). Common vocabulary and phraseology between Psalm 90 and Deuteronomy 32–33 confirm Mosaic authorship of the psalm.

There are also those who believe that the historical background of this Psalm is most likely found in the events found in Numbers chapter 20.

It's there where we learn about the the death of Moses' sister Miriam - as well as his brother Aaron.

And if so - then - I have no doubt that Moses penned this prayer - during a times of Great sorrow.

This is also the chapter - where Moses sinned against the Lord by striking the rock twice.

It was at that moment when the Lord informed him - that he wouldn't be allowed to enter the land of promise.

That being the case - Moses probably presented this prayer...

...with a broken - and a contrite heart.

Now - as we make our way through the lyrics of this Psalm - it's my prayer that we will all realize that...

...the LORD is near to those who have a broken heart - and He's ready to save those who have a contrite spirit.

And while it's true that there are times when we will suffer the temporary consequences of our carnal decisions...

...it's also true that the Lord is merciful - and full of compassion.

And it's for this reason that we should seek prayerfully seek His face - each and everyday.

With this as our goal - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 90th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where we learn that this Psalm is...

Psa 90:1 A Prayer of Moses the man of God.
Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Psa 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.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find Moses - referring to himself as the man of God.

That word - God - found there in verse 1 - was translated from the Hebrew word - Elohim.

And it might interest you to know that - this is the same word that Moses used in Genesis 1 - verse 1 - where he declared...

Gen 1:1 In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth.

From this - we can see that - the first verse of the Bible presents us with a Creator - Who is called - Elohim.

And it's here in the 90th Psalm - where Moses identified himself as the man of Elohim.

At the same time - it's also important to understand that - the title - Elohim could be used in reference to many different entities - and nonentities.

As a matter of fact - the title Elohim has been used of angels and judges - - it was used of demons and false deities.

It's for this reason that Moses not only referred to himself as the man of Elohim...

...but - he also identified which Elohim he was referring to.

Notice with me again - there in verse 1 - where we read...

Psa 90:1 A Prayer of Moses the man of God.
Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Now - that word - Lord - was translated from the Hebrew word - Adonai.

And Adonai was often times used in place of the LORD's proper name - Yahweh - as a display of reverence.

Here's how Spiros Zohdicates explained it in his study bible...

It is often used in place of the divine name YHWH, which was held by later Jewish belief to be too holy to utter. This designation points to the supreme authority or power of God. The word was often combined with the divine name to reinforce the notion of God's matchlessness.

We should also notice how Moses used the Hebrew root - EL - as he described the infinite nature of our God.

Look with me again - there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 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.

Here in this verse - we find Moses - referring to our Creator - as EL.

And while the root word - Ayil - was used of those who are mighty...

...Moses was referring to the ALMIGHTY One - Who formed the earth and the world.

We should also notice that Moses was proclaiming the praises of the infinite God - Who exists from everlasting to everlasting.

In other words - Adonai is the Elohim Who has always existed.

And - Adonai is the El - Who will never cease to exist.

He is the One Who is infinite in all of His attributes...

...and therefore - He alone is worthy to be praised as the true and living LORD.

Now - as we consider how Moses was worshipping the everlasting One Who formed the earth and the world...

...I wanna take a moment to address those who insist that young earth creationism is scientifically indefensible.

This includes William Lane Craig - who would have us to believe that...

...the first 11 chapters of Genesis are nothing more than Hebrew mytho-history...

...which should not be taken literally.

Let's consider something Craig said during an interview back in 2013 - when he declared...

"I've seen a comparable statistic that says that over 50% of evangelical pastors think that the world is less than 10,000 years old. When you think about that, that is just hugely embarrassing. That over half of our ministers really believe that the universe is only around 10,000 years old. This is just scientifically, it's

nonsense, and yet this is the view that the majority of our pastors hold. It's really quite shocking when you think about it."

That's right - pastors - like me - who believe in a literal historical interpretation of Genesis chapter 1...

...are a huge embarrassment to William Lane Craig.

What he fails to mention is that - the Lord Jesus confirmed the historical account of Moses...

...which includes the teaching that mankind was created on the 6th Day.

Let's consider how Jesus explained it - in His response to a group of Pharisees who asked him about divorce.

It's in Matthew chapter 19 - beginning at verse 4 - where Jesus responded to their question - by asking...

Mat 19:4 "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,

Mat 19:5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

In response to this question about divorce -the Lord Jesus reminded the Pharisees about God's plan for marriage.

And we should notice that Christ Jesus actually quoted the instructions that Elohim presented to Adam and Eve.

It was just after creating Eve - when God presented them with this directive found in Genesis 2 - it's verse 24 where He declared....

Gen 2:24 ...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Now - as we consider how Christ Jesus quoted this verse from the Genesis account of Moses...

...there should be no doubt that the Lord Jesus was treating this as literal history...

...and NOT as some sort of mytho-history - as William Lane Craig would have us to believe.

There was a literal Adam and a literal Eve - Who were instructed to teach their kids about God's plan for marriage.

And just to be clear - marriage includes one biological man - and one biological woman - who are called to leave and cleave.

In other words - they're called to leave - or - depart from their parents house...

...so that they can be joined together - as one flesh - in a newly formed family.

This is God's plan for every new marriage according to the instructions He presented to Adam and Eve.

And it's for this reason that I won't officiate a wedding...

...unless the couple is ready to leave their parents house - and cleave together.

Sadly - there are many in the church today who have been duped into believing that the first 11 chapters of Genesis - is mytho-history.

One reason why is because - they've been duped by the faulty research of secular scientists - who reject God at the outset.

And while I realize that I'm a huge embarrassment to William Lane Craig...

...I'm convinced that my position is in line with the teachings of Christ Jesus...

...which is based on the historical account that the Lord revealed through Moses.

Now - as we turn our attention back to the 90th Psalm - we should consider the concerns that Moses expressed - here in this prayer.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 3 - where Moses declared...

Psa 90:3 You turn man to destruction,
And say, "Return, O children of men."

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

Psa 90:5 You carry them away like a flood;
They are like a sleep.

In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

Psa 90:6 In the morning it flourishes and grows up;
In the evening it is cut down and withers.

Here in these verses - we find Moses - sharing his concerns about the anger of our everlasting God.

And being that a day in our lives is like a thousand years to the Lord...

...Moses compared our lives to the grass which grows up in the morning...

...only to then be cut down in the evening - as it withers away.

As we consider how Moses was contemplating the brevity of life...

...it's possible that this was his way of processing the death of his sister Miriam - and his brother Aaron.

And as we consider how painful it is to lose a loved one - it's important for us to remember what Paul write in Romans 12...

...when he directed us to "weep with those who weep."

Jesus Himself demonstrated this compassion - when He saw Mary - weeping - because her brother Lazarus had died.

When Jesus saw her weeping - and the Jews who came with her also weeping - He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

And it's in John chapter 11 - verse 35 - where we learn that Jesus wept.

Now - listen - Jesus knew that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead.

And yet - He still wept with Mary - because - those who are compassionate...

...will weep with those who weep.

It's also important for us to realize that our life here on Earth is extremely short.

You might not know this - but - the average lifespan for a human is roughly 70 years.

I'm turning 57 in just a few days - - and what this means is that my life here on Earth will soon be over.

And as I look back over the time that the Lord has granted to me so far...

...I can't help but to confess that - many years were wasted on fruitless endeavors.

And it's for this reason that I am so passionate about living the rest of my life...

...for the glory of our Lord and Savior - Jesus.

This reminds me of the point James was making - in the fourth chapter of his epistle - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Jas 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

Jas 4:14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Jas 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Jas 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Jas 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Christian - listen - our life here on Earth is like a vapor of smoke.

We're here for a little time - and then - we're gone.

It's for this reason that we should prayerfully seek the leading of the Lord...

...so that we can humbly live a life that is pleasing to Him.

In order to understand why this is so important - let's continue to consider the concerns that Moses presented - here in the 90th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

Psa 90:7 For we have been consumed by Your anger,
And by Your wrath we are terrified.

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

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

Psa 90:10 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.
Psa 90:11 Who knows the power of Your anger?
For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.
Psa 90:12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Here in these verses - we find Moses - confessing grief...

...as he considered the way in which the children of Israel were
consumed by the anger of the Lord.

Remember - the adults who followed him out of Egypt had
been cursed to wander in the wilderness...

...and the reason why was because - they refused to
enter the land of promise...

...for fear of the inhabitants.

In this way - the Lord exposed their iniquities - and shined the light of His
countenance - upon their secret sins.

And after acknowledging the brevity of their lives - being 70 - or
maybe 80 years...

...Moses asked the Lord to teach them how to number their
days...

...so that they might gain heart of wisdom.

Christian - listen - if the average lifespan is 70 years - - then - - what this
means is that...

...we have less than 26 thousand days - to discover and accomplish
our calling in Christ.

And it's sad to say that so many of us have wasted so much of
our lives - living for the lusts of the flesh.

I didn't become a Christian until I was 25 years old - - and what this means is that...

...I wasted nearly a third of my days - should I live to be 70 years old.

And it's for this reason that I am determined to live the rest of my days - for the will of the Lord.

I love how the apostle Peter put it - in 1st Peter chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Pe 4:1 ...since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1Pe 4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1Pe 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

1Pe 4:4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

1Pe 4:5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

I don't know about you - but - I've spent enough of my past lifetime doing the will of this world.

And it's for this reason that I refuse to waste one more day - wandering in the wilderness.

Rather than running with them - in the same flood of dissipation - and debauchery...

...those who trust in Jesus should redeem the time that we have left.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 11 - where he declared...

Eph 5:11 ...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The time we have here on Earth is extremely limited - and especially in light of eternity future.

And knowing that there are people - whom we love - who will end up spending eternity in the fires of hell...

...every believer will do well to redeem the time - by leading unbelievers to Jesus.

And listen - one of the best ways to do this - is by shining the light of the Lord's love...

...on the dark deeds of this wicked world.

Well - as we turn our attention back to the prayer of Moses - we can rejoice in knowing that those who trust in the Lord - will rejoice forevermore.

Let's consider how Moses put it - here in the 90th Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 13 - where he declared...

Psa 90:13 Return, O LORD!

How long?

And have compassion on Your servants.

Psa 90:14 Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,

That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

Psa 90:15 Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us,
The years in which we have seen evil.
Psa 90:16 Let Your work appear to Your servants,
And Your glory to their children.
Psa 90:17 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.

Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Moses - asking the Lord to return to them.

And we must not fail to notice that the word - LORD - found there in verses 13 - and 17 - are found in all capitals.

And just to be clear - Moses wasn't yelling - - no - - instead - He was calling upon Yahweh.

Whenever we find the title LORD - written in all caps - - we know that the sacred name of God is found in the manuscript.

And so - Moses - the man of Elohim - not only appealed to Adonai...

...but - He also called upon the name of the Lord - which is Yahweh.

And what this means is that - this Psalm helps us to see that...

...the documentary hypothesis is nonsense.

Just to be clear - those who espouse the documentary hypothesis would have us to believe that...

...the first five books of the Bible - commonly called the Torah - weren't written by Moses...

...no - instead - these books were compiled by different authors and editorial schools over centuries.

The reason for this hypothesis is largely based on the varied use of Elohim, Yahweh, and Adonai.

What the scholars who espouse this hypothesis failed to realize is that...

...Moses used all three of these titles for God - here in the 90th Psalm.

I would also point out that - Jesus Himself confirmed Moses - as the author of the Torah.

One example of this is found in Luke chapter 24 - it's verse 44 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Luk 24:44 "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

It was after His resurrection - when Jesus assured His disciples - that the books of the Torah - were written by Moses.

Therefore - the scholars who Would have us to believe that...

...the Torah was compiled by different authors and editorial schools over centuries...

...are failing to believe what Jesus said about Moses being the author.

And listen - Moses not only referred to the Lord - as Elohim - Adonai - and Yahweh - here in this prayer...

...but - He also asked the Lord to return to them - - according to His compassion - and mercy.

And in this way - Moses was reminding them about the promise that he presented - back in the Torah.

It's in Deuteronomy chapter 13 - where Moses described the way in which Yahweh is ready to forgive.

It's beginning at verse 17 - where he declared...

Deu 13:17 "...the LORD may turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers,

Deu 13:18 "because you have listened to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

According to Moses - Yahweh Elohim is the merciful compassionate God...

...Who is always ready to receive those who are truly repentant.

And that's great news - even for Moses.

Remember - Moses was the man who was forbidden from entering the land of promise...

...and the reason why was due to the fact that - he struck the rock twice - with a heart filled with anger.

And while it's true that he died - just outside of the land of promise...

...it's also true that Moses appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration...

...as Jesus was transfigured before Peter - James - and John.

It's in Luke chapter 9 - beginning at verse 28 - where we learn that...

Luk 9:28 ...it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

Luk 9:29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

Luk 9:30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,

Luk 9:31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Here in these verses - we find Luke - describing the day when Jesus was transfigured - before Peter - James and John.

And it was there on that mountain top - where Peter, James, and John saw Moses and Elijah - in their glorified bodies.

What this means is that - the punishment of Moses was a temporary consequence...

...for his failure to follow the instructions of the Lord.

Christian - listen - there are times when we will experience temporary consequences for our sinful decisions.

And while we should do our best to avoid these the decisions that result in these temporary consequences...

...we can still rejoice in knowing that - our God is a gracious God - Who is always ready to forgive those who trust in Him.

And while it's true that we will fail Him - time and time again...

...it's also true that He is able to satisfy us with His mercy...

...so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

And much like Moses - who appeared with Jesus - in his glorified body...

...those who trust in Jesus will be like Him - on the day when He is revealed on the Mount of Olives.

And with that being the case - it's my prayer that we will let let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us today...

...as we allow Him to establish the work of our hands - according to His infinite power.

And in this way - the almighty God Who dwells from everlasting to everlasting...

...will help us to live a life - that brings glory to His holy name.

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