

Psalm 91
Through the Life of Moses
By Pastor Bren Gibbs

Hello Victory friends and family.

It is an honor to bring another devotional to you today. Our Bible reading reference for this devotional is Psalm 91.

So often when I read Psalm 91, I think of the life of Moses. If you look at Psalm 90, it is specifically titled “A Prayer of Moses the Man of God.” Psalm 91 does not specifically say who the author was, but some scholars believe it could be Moses, since he wrote the previous psalm. We cannot say for sure if Moses wrote Psalm 91, but I personally feel it was either Moses or someone who had Moses’ life in mind when they wrote it.

Moses’ life was extraordinary and one known for great intimacy with God. Scripture says that God spoke to Moses face-to-face, as a man speaks to his friend (Exodus 33:11). Moses could arguably be known as the closest man to God that ever walked the face of the earth, outside of Jesus Himself.

Moses has quite a portfolio. He is remembered as a great prophet, the vessel God used to deliver Israel from Egypt, the one who released plagues upon Egypt, and the leader who established Israel’s laws, worship, and national identity. Through Moses, God also established the Tabernacle—the dwelling place of His presence among His people on the earth. Moses’ life was an expression of an “on earth as it is in heaven” moment of time that God established in His Kingdom among humanity. So much of God’s purposes revolved around the life of this one man while he walked the earth.

Today we are going to explore this cherished psalm through the life of Moses. I want to show you the connection between this passage of scripture and Moses’ life experiences, to discover greater revelation of its meaning for our lives today.

Moses lived unusually close to the presence of God. Moses loved the presence of God so much that he told the Lord in Exodus 33:15, while Israel was wondering in the wilderness, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here” (NKJV). He would have rather stayed in the dry, uncomfortable, and seemingly wandering wilderness, than to be anywhere where God was not.

This is a testament to us today that our first priority is to be where the Lord is. Let me ask you a few questions to ponder. Would you rather live in comfort without His presence, or live in a place of discomfort where His presence rests? Can you remain in a place that feels unsettled, unfamiliar, or inconvenient if you know that is where He has chosen to meet with you? Would you rather be known, celebrated, and prominent without His presence, or hidden, overlooked, and seemingly insignificant with His presence?

Eighty of the 120 years that Moses walked the earth was associated with wilderness/desert life. The first 40 years in the wilderness were developmental years and the years he learned to live in the secret place with God. It is in these obscure seasons in life that the Lord pulls us aside unto Himself.

If you feel like most of your life has been some type of wilderness experience, you are in good company. God sets our lives on a pilgrimage so we can learn to rely on and trust in Him. It is in seasons of wandering that we learn the disciplines of trust, dependence, and continually seeking the Lord, so that when the wilderness season ends, inquiring of Him has become our natural and instinctive response.

Do not waste your wilderness season! God is using it to set you up for success in Him. Sometimes the long wait in the wilderness is because we are not fast learners. Sometimes it is because of the assignment. Perhaps sometimes it is because He enjoys our company there. Whatever the reason, it will do you good to embrace your season instead of always trying to find a way out. God will be sure to take you into your next season when He is ready for it, whether you think you are or not.

In Moses' early years, he had luxury and celebrity status being in Pharaoh's house. But Scripture says he rejected all of it to fix His eyes on a greater reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NKJV) says,

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Moses saw God as a greater reward than anything else we can have or attain in this life. He left it all to find God and be where He was. He didn't care about the esteem of others. He didn't care about what he would lose. Even through the afflictions, persecutions, and difficulties, he valued the Lord as a better reward, than having anything else.

He didn't settle for some of the pleasures of the earth and some of the pleasures of the Lord. He was all in. He gave it all to gain what was most important to him—being with the Lord and being a part of what He is doing on the earth.

Moses understood what living in the secret place and presence of God truly was. He also knew what it cost, because he paid the cost. There is a price to pay for dwelling in the secret place, but there is greater return on investment. Because he was willing to pay the price for living in God's presence, the Lord not only protected Moses, but used Moses to do His will and purposes in the earth.

Moses was one who administered God's judgments and was also one to stand in the gap and intercede for God's mercy. He had God's heart from being in the secret place, and God knew He could trust Moses with these weightier matters that others couldn't be trusted with.

As you read Psalm 91, you see the beautiful and intimate relationship between the Lord and the one who lives in the secret place with Him. You can feel the love, affection, and thankfulness the Lord has towards this person. You sense the reciprocity in the relationship where both the Lord and this person contribute to the relationship and feel valued and prioritized.

Moses had this type of relationship with the Lord. He carried the heart of God and had His best interests in mind in all that he did. The Lord even said in Numbers 12:6–8 (NKJV) that He spoke to Moses more intimately than His prophets:

Hear now my words:
"If there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision;
I speak to him in a dream.
Not so with My servant Moses;
He is faithful in all My house.
I speak with him face to face,
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;
And he sees the form of the Lord.
Why then were you not afraid
To speak against My servant Moses?"

If you honor God, He will honor you. If you are faithful to God, He will be faithful to you. He will honor you with His love, protection, deliverance, and refreshment. He will have your back! That is the point of Psalm 91 that we see so clearly in the life of Moses.

Moses saw God deliver him from snares set by his enemies, as well as the deadly judgments of the Lord Himself. No matter the conflict, Moses saw the Lord delivered him every time. Not only did he see the deliverance of his God, but he also saw the reward of the wicked.

He witnessed God deliver him from the snare of the fowler when Pharaoh attempted to trap him and all of Israel at the Red Sea. The situation looked hopeless, but God did a miracle of miracles! He split the sea and the people walked across on dry land (Exodus 14).

Moses also experienced the Lord's deliverance from the perilous pestilence through the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7–12) and later through deadly plagues in the wilderness that killed thousands (Numbers 14, 16).

Moses was not afraid of the terror by night or the arrow that flies by day. He knew he was safe because he trusted the One who instructed him for the Passover. During that terrifying night, the Egyptians' firstborn died, while Israel was shielded from the destroyer (Exodus 12).

Later Moses faced the arrows flying by day from Amalek (Exodus 17:8-16), Sihon (Numbers 21:21-31), and Og (Numbers 21:33-35). Every time, God gave Moses and Israel the victory.

Moses literally watched thousands fall by his side and ten thousand at his right hand. He witnessed the earth split open beneath those who took part in Korah's rebellion, swallow them alive, and close back over them again (Numbers 16). Can you imagine? He beheld over fourteen thousand people die from the hand of the Lord through a plague that broke out due to the people's slander and complaints against him.

Poisonous snakes attacked Israel (because they spoke against God and Moses), yet God gave Moses the plan for the people to be healed. Once again, being in the secret place gave the answer for deliverance and salvation.

These are just a few of the incredible, supernatural stories in the life of Moses. We could recount all day long his life and how God delivered him, favored him, and answered him. I hope as you continue to read Psalm 91, you do so.

In closing today, I want the word "devotion" to really sink into your heart. Moses was a man devoted to God. The person who makes the continual decision, every day, to live and dwell where God is, will have a life in God that is marked with undeniable covering, protection, honor, and pleasure in the Lord.

As we look at the life of Moses and any Psalm 91 person, the focus is not, "God will give me protection." The priority is, "I must be where God is. I must be with Him." All the benefits flow out of the relationship.

That is the heart of Psalm 91. Jesus said it like this, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 NKJV). So, if our hearts are only asking, "How do I get God's protection and provision?" we have missed the whole point.

Lastly, never compare what God is doing in you or through you to a worldly standard of value or worth. His thoughts are far above our thoughts, and His ways are high above our ways. Trust Him, trust the process, and delight in His presence through the journey. You are in good hands, and most importantly, He is making you His friend. That is worth it all!

Be blessed today in His presence, Victory family. We will see you soon.