

PSALM 90 vs 1

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Many attempts have been made to prove that Moses did not write this Psalm, but we remain unmoved in the conviction that he did. Moses was mighty in word as well as deed, and this Psalm is one of his weighty utterances, worthy to stand side by side with his glorious speech recorded in Deuteronomy. Moses was a man of God; he was God's man; chosen of God, inspired and honored of God, and faithful to God. This is the oldest of the Psalms and stands between two books of Psalms as a composition unique in grandeur, and alone in sublime antiquity – Charles Spurgeon.

Divisions: Book 4 (Psalms 90-106); in this Psalm, Moses sings of the frailty of man, and the shortness of life, contrasting with the eternity of God (1-11); and his prayer, founded on earnest appeals for compassion (12-17).



Book 4

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God

¹ **LORD, You are our dwelling place in all generations.**

² **Before the mountains were brought out, or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

³ **You returned man to dust; and said, return, O children of men.**

⁴ **For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes, and as a few hours in the night.**

⁵ **You swept them away like a flood; they are asleep: in the morning like growing grass;**

⁶ **in the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it quickly fades, and withers.**

⁷ **For we are consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified.**

⁸ **You set our crimes before You, our secrets in the light of Your presence.**

⁹ **For all our days pass away in Your wrath: we finish our years with a sigh.**

¹⁰ **The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is just labor and sorrow; for it is cut off soon, and we fly away.**

¹¹ **Who knows the power of Your anger? even according to the fear that is due You.**

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Think about it: He is God; He needs nothing; we find our home in Him. Justice shortened the days of rebels; mortality is not accidental. "You swept them away" the way was lost; no vestige of a road remained; it was a wilderness; they thought they knew better; who can keep this up when ready to fall at every step? The supply all gone; the water is gone, not a stream in the desert in sight; should not emancipated slaves be grateful to the hand who set them free? "You redeemed us unto God by Your blood" – Charles Spurgeon.

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart full of wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD; how long until You again have mercy on Your servants?

14 O satisfy us early with Your mercy; that we rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad according to the days that You afflicted us; the years that we have seen evil.

16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children.

17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us and the work of our hands: confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm it.

Think about it: We must dwell in God, not run to Him now and then. We are the dwelling place of God in His Spirit; but here Moses tells us we are dwellers in His house; in His place of refuge and safety – Martin Luther, 1483-1546. For the whole space of human life, though it may be long, and reach a thousand years, yet with God it is valued as one day, already gone; and scarcely equal to the fourth part of a night; when human affairs are involved in much darkness, dangers, terrors and sorrows. – Albinus Mollerus, 1541-1618.

Sir Thomas Smith, secretary to Queen Elizabeth, said, it is a great pity men knew not why they were born into this world, until they were ready to go from it. Mark what Moses here prays for: only to number his days. But did he not do this already? Doubtless yes! But he thought he had not done it well enough. It is to take the measure of our days, compared to the work to be done; and the provision to lay up for eternity, with the preparation to make for death; and its caution to be taken against judgment. "And apply our hearts to wisdom" God said, those who seek Me will find Me, because they search for Me with their hearts. – Charles Spurgeon.
Mercy = getting what we do not deserve.

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