

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 ▫ Read Psalm 90

Questions from the Scripture text: Who wrote this Psalm? Where had the people “dwelt” by the time of Moses (v1)? For how long had this been their dwelling place? Who formed the earth and the world (v2)? For how long has Yahweh been God? Who turns man to destruction (v3)? What does He say when He does so? How many years are mentioned in v4? In whose sight are they like a day? What shorter period are they like (v4c)? How does Yahweh sweep away the sons of Adam (v5a)? What else are they like (v5b)? How quickly do they appear (v5c-6a)? What else happens to them quickly (v6b)? What has consumed the people (v7a)? What has terrified them (v7b)? How did this come about—what has God set before Him (v8a)? Which sins in particular does v8b mention? With what light have they been exposed from the darkness (v8b)? What, then happens, to all men’s days (v9a)? To what does v9b compare the finishing of their years? What was an average life span in v10a? How long would someone live to have been thought strong (v10b)? But what would even the life of such a strong person seem to have amounted to (v10c)? Why—what soon happens to them (v10d)? What does v11a indicate is extremely powerful? How big does v11b say that God’s wrath is? What are we to learn to do in comparison to God’s eternity and wrath (v12a)? From whom can we learn to do this? What will it give us (v12b)? What is the second petition in this psalm (v13a)? What, specifically, is he asking Yahweh to return to do (v13c)? What is the third petition (v14a)? With what, specifically, does he pray that we would be satisfied? What effect would this have upon us (v14b, cp. v9)? What does he ask Yahweh to do in v15a? If they do receive this mercy, then what specifically would increase the measure of their new gladness (v15a-b)? What would Yahweh be showing them in such a case (v16a)? What else (v16b)? Of what would His people themselves become a display (v17a)? What will He do as a result of the given mercy and show of this display of beauty (v17b-c)?

**How can God be the eternal dwelling place of people whose lives have justly been cut short by His rath against their sin?** Psalm 90 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these seventeen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers must be delivered from God’s divinely great wrath by God’s compassion and mercy in order to come into the divinely great joy of having God Himself as our blessedness.**

By answering the questions above, you will find that the Psalm itself walks us straightforwardly to its conclusion. We are the children of Adam (v3, literally translated), and therefore we die. The longest any of his children had ever lived was about a thousand years—compared in this psalm to a single night watch (v4). Your life is short, dear Christian! What fools we are, if we think of our nation, our community, our land or house, as our home. We will be evicted promptly from all of these at the end of our short life.

Why? Because we are sinners. We deserve wrath. Nothing can possibly be hidden from God. The infinitely brilliant light of His countenance exposes even our most secret sins (v8). Man already knows that he is miserable, and how much more miserable he would be, if he could see the greatness of the wrath that is behind our misery! Even for believers, if we understand why our lives are short, we will live in dread of our sin and how wicked it is.

Therefore, our only hope is His compassion (v13) and mercy (14). When He gives us a joy that comes not by way of having our earthly desires satisfied for a handful of years, but a joy that comes by way of being delivered from the wrath that shortened our years to begin with—then, our joy is as great as the wrath and judgment that we originally deserved (v15)! We long for the mercy that will give God Himself to be our joy!! I wonder, dear reader, what your joy was yesterday? What has it been so far today? What will it be tomorrow. It is high time that you not settle for joys that will fail you. Yes, you may have sadness and sighing for a while, as you wait for Him to be your joy and look to Him to be your joy, but when mercy comes, you will find that He is an infinite and eternal joy.

But we don’t have to wait until eternity to begin receiving a joy that is as big as that eternity. As we begin to live in the light of God’s favor, and He becomes the firmness of our work (v17b–c), we begin to see that He is always the One working (v16a), that His aim is not to make us appear to be great but rather to have us behold His greatness (v16b), that when we are beautiful it will be with His beauty for all to see Him as glorious (v17a).

Why, ultimately, is your life going to be so short? What have you been thinking of as your home? What have you been looking to for joy in it? How long will this home and joy last? What (Who!) is the best home and joy?

*Sample prayer: Lord, as You gather us to Yourself in Christ week by week, we pray that You would display Yourself as our Home and Yourself as our Happiness. Help us, by Your Spirit, to worship You. We know that our lives are short because of our sin, and because of Your wrath against sin. But, we come to You looking for compassion and mercy that would give us infinite and eternal joy in You. Therefore, we come you through Him whom You have given in compassion and mercy, even our Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!!*

**Suggested songs: ARP90B “O, Teach Us How to Count Our Days” or TPH90A “Lord, You Have Been Our Dwelling Place”**

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Psalm 90 these are God’s words. A prayer of Moses, the man of god. Lord. You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, wherever you had formed the earth and the world. Even from everlasting, to everlasting. You are god. You turn man to destruction.

And say, return of children of men. For a thousand years in your sight. Are like yesterday when it has passed. And like a watch in the night. You carry them away like a flood. They are like asleep. In the morning, they are like grass, which grows up. In the morning, it flourishes and grows up.

In the evening, it has cut down and withered. For we have been consumed by your anger. And by your wrath, we are terrified. You have set our iniquities before you. Our secret sins and the light of your accountants. For all our days, have passed away in Iraq. We finished our years, like sigh.

The days of our lives are 70 years. And if by reason of strength, there are 80 years. Yet they’re boast is only labor and sora. For it as soon. Cut off. And we fly away. Who knows the power of your anger? For as the fear of you, so is your rock.

So, teach us to number our days. That we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return. Oh yeah. How long? And have compassion on your servants. And satisfy us early with your mercy. That we may rejoice. And be glad all our days. Make us glad. According to the days in which you’ve looked at us.

The years in which we have seen evil, Let your work appear to your servants. And your glory to their children. And what the beauty of yawhi, our god be upon us. And establish the work of our hands for us. Yes. Establish the work of our hands.

So far. God’s inspired and in their word.

In the sun. We pray and sing. That god would be our home. That god would be our. Hope. That god would be our help. And that god would be our happiness. As very interesting that It is Moses by him, the spirit gave us the psalm. If he says, Lord you have been our dwelling place.

Throughout our generations. And, Moses. Was never really in his own home. There's yanked out of his parents home. Very early in life and spent. Pretty much the first 40 years of his life. Growing up in Pharaoh's house. And Hebrews 11 teaches us that He recognized the whole time, he was there that he belonged to another people.

To another god. He was a stranger in that house. And then the next 40 years. He spent in the Home of a Midianite. Send it from Abraham, but Well, not through, Jacob, not the Israel, not with his people.

Shepherd, out in the corner of the wilderness. And then for the next 40 years, he wandered. And so really the Lord is the only home that Moses ever truly had. But that is true for us. It's true for us because of the everlastingness of God. It's true for us because of the brevity of our life.

I don't know. If, if any of you think of the 217 house as a home. We're remember the big house when you think of In your mind, what home is? But we're And those houses for a season, we're in this house for a season. Maybe even it'll be 70 or 80 years.

Like the Lord. Talks about here. But what does that compared to God? And what does that compared to how long you will live? If you make your home this house, which is a blast and happy house. It's highly concentrated, the Hakeem's per square foot ratio is very high. And we have a blessed life even.

Just now enjoying some of the greatest blessing of it, which has been God together. In his word. And that truly is the blessing of her life. And this is our home, family worship is more of our home. Then this place in the yard and the woods that you I have come to know every part of Because God is forever and he made us for himself.

And so he's not just our home but he's our hope. Who's our hope, because We can hear a whisper of what we were designed to be in verse 4. Per thousand years in. Site or like a day when it has passed like a watch in the night. Roughly the length of the longest human life that we know of ever lived.

But there's love And 169 years. Round it to a thousand.

But we know why? Our life in our world is not like that. Those verse 3. You say return? No children of men. To your destruction. How did this happen? Verse 7. We have been consumed by your anger. By your wrath, we are terrified. And so we have cut ourselves short when we say teach us to number our days.

We're saying remind us that we're creatures. But even more than that, remind us, that we're sinners. And that what we need is not. A home and happiness for 70 years. We need. Redemption. Forgiveness, for our sins. To be made right with God. So that he will be our home.

Forever and ever.

And he will be our happiness forever and ever. And so he alone can be our hope. Because he alone has Life and goodness and strength. And We are the ones who have a 70 or 80 and he is still the one. Who a thousand years are like yesterday, like a lot of the night.

And he who is our hope then. The only possible hope is also our help. God had said, return our children of men verse three to the dust But we cry out to him, and This is his word so he teaches us to cry out to him return. Oh yaha His compassion verse 13.

His mercy. Verse 14. Uh, make the one who is the only possible hope our actual help. Who teaches us to? Find help from him. Something that's easy. To forget. Because as we live, even if we are thinking biblically and Want to live rightly. We're Often very aware of. How we're not measuring up.

But a big part of Numbering our days as Creatures and sinners is to recognize. That since we cannot be our own hope. We must have the only one who can be our hope as our help. And so, as you live your life, You are aware of how things are not going.

Well. Remember to look away from yourself and to him. Because he has, Made himself our help. And, If he is the one who by verse 17's words is establishing the work of our hands. Then. Then we will be. Happy. Not just all of our days in this life. But, We will be happy forever and ever.

And so if you have the Lord, as your home and your hope and your help, You'll have him as Your happiness. Verse 14 that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days in which you have afflicted us, And that's all well enough.

But that's only You know, if we, if we split 50, 50 in this life and you live all the way to the 80, Which is the upper range that's given in the psalm. You know. 40 years of gladness to balance, 40 years of pain. But You can see in verse 16 and 17.

He's talking about. Gladness during the pain, because God, is your gladness? And then broadness beyond. Because you not only see his work. Over 16. And have his beauty. Upon you verse 17. But he continues to show his glory to your children. Verse 16. And we know, of course, That.

When we return. To the dust. That is prelude to resurrection. And if God is your happiness, in this life, he will be Your happiness forever. And so that does challenge us. What do we? What do we find to be our happiness? What are you hoping to enjoy? Very specifically today.

How are you? Planning to get through today. Is the Lord, your Happiness today and this year. Hope and your help today. Thankfully. He gives us his word, he gives us this word specifically just now

Which is spirit has caused to be. Written not only on the page, but As we're thinking about narcissism question this week. We look to Hesperic. To write it upon our heart. So let's pray and ask him to do that.

Our father in heaven. Thank you. That you have given us, this portion of your word that In you, we might dwell securely. Have you as our home, have you as our refuge. We pray that your spirit would write the truth of psalm 90 on our hearts. That today. We would have hope by your help.

And then we would have happiness and belonging to you. So that the circumstances, Cannot take the happiness away. And not even deaf itself when that they comes. And so help us a large to Think and live according to This instruction from your word for we ask it in Jesus name.