

A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD

I. Psalm 90:1-17

A. When we think of the Psalms, the first person that usually comes to mind is David. But only about 75 are attributed to him. The other half were penned by others. One person that may not come to mind is Moses. But besides authoring the first five books of the Bible, Moses also wrote Psalm 90, our text today.

B. The Psalms have long been my go-to book in tough seasons. I often make them my prayer. A third of the Psalms are laments, poetic words that are cries and complaints, pleas from the psalmist's heart to God. If your relationship with God is absent of lament, you may not be as close to Him as you think. Tears reveal the salt in our souls. Until the day tears are wiped away for good, we'll shed them. But we will either shed them in anguish and despair or with Hope in God.

C. Psalm 90:1-17 (ESV) *A Prayer of Moses, the man of God...*

1) **V1-2: 1** *Lord, You have been our dwelling place (refuge) in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God. (God, in Three Persons--from eternity past and forevermore. Before all worlds. Before time. Unending. Unchanging. He always was and forever will be. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever present!)*

2) **V3: 3** *You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" (Since Eden, since the fall, it's been earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust.)*

3) **V4-6: 4** *For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. 5 You sweep them (our days) away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. (Floods, dreams, withering grass--all metaphors for the brevity of life.)*

4) **V7-8: (But then Moses' lament shifts to God's anger and wrath and the consequences thereof.) 7** *For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. 8 You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. (Nothing is hidden before God! He sees all and even knows our thoughts!)*

5) **V9: 9** *For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. (NIV: with a moan) (While some would like to strike the word wrath from the Scriptures, it's not going anywhere. You're either living your life under God's wrath or living your life free of it because Jesus absorbed your portion on His cross! The cross is the place where the wrath of God and the love of God meet. Do you want to know what God's wrath looks like, look what Jesus suffered on the cross! Do you want to know what God's love looks like, look Who He put on that cross to absorb it! 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV) is for believers: 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake (alive) or asleep (dead) we might live with Him. Romans 5:8-9 (NIV) echoes: 8 But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been*

*justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! (Has the love of God, through the Person of Jesus Christ, been poured into your heart? Are your days passing under God's wrath or free and out from under it? Have you been set free from the consequences of sin which is death and hell through Christ? Has this **Good News** become your **Good News**?!)*

6) V10: 10 *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. (70 or 80 years of life in the here & now is the result of **common grace** left unaffected by disease or disaster or other fatal events allowed by of God. Longevity isn't a promise of entitlement, it's a blessing granted by God. Use the days He's granted you for His honor and glory! Use them to love and serve His people and those He's drawing to Himself!)*

7) V11-14: 11 *Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? 12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. 13 Return, (OV: Relent) O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants! 14 Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. (Flashback a week ago to Lamentations 3:22-23...)*

8) V15-16: 15 *Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. 16 Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. 17 Let 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! (Yes Lord--show it to us, and to our children, and our children's children and all the generations that follow!)*

D. Here's some wisdom to embrace: Fear God! Here's more: All of you are going to die. And likewise, all of you are going to live forever. These bodies will die. They'll be buried or scattered and await Resurrection Day. But you yourself will live forever; either in the blissful presence of God who saved you or in the dreadful absence of His presence with torments unspeakable. Moses wrote the words we just read in the wilderness. He wrote them as many prepared to enter the Promised Land. And he wrote them as others prepared to die in that desert because they'd turned their backs on God. Some were bound for Sinai's dust; others bound for milk & honey. Don't skip over this! Eternal destinies are at stake! Everyone has an eternal destiny, just not the same one! Augustine said it well: "They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them."

E. There's a latin phrase on old grandfather clocks and sun dials, "*Tempus Fugit*." (Also a song by the band YES, back-in-the-day.) *Tempus Fugit* simply means, "*Time Flies*." And so it does. What would God have you do with the time you've been given? Perhaps more than you might think. Psalm 39:4-8 (NLT) says: **4 *LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered--how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to You; at best, each of us is but a breath. Interlude. 6 We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. 7 And so, LORD, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You. 8 Rescue me from my rebellion. Do not let fools mock me.***

*** Close with Prayer...**

* **John 3:35-36 (AMP) The words of John the Baptist are our Benediction: 35** *The Father loves the Son and has given and entrusted all things into His hand. 36* *He who believes and trusts in the Son and accepts Him [as Savior] has eternal life [that is, already possesses it]; but he who does not believe the Son and chooses to reject Him, [disobeying Him and denying Him as Savior] will not see [eternal] life, but [instead] the wrath of God hangs over him continually.*

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Psalm 90:1-17 (ESV) A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. **2** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God. **3** You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" **4** For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. **5** You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: **6** in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. **7** For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. **8** You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. **9** For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. **10** 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. **11** Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? **12** So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. **13** Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants! **14** Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. **15** Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. **16** Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. **17** Let 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!

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV)

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake (alive) or asleep (dead) we might live with Him.

Romans 5:8-9 (NIV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!

Psalm 39:4-8 (NLT)

4 LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered--how fleeting my life is. **5** You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to You; at best, each of us is but a breath. *Interlude* **6** We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing.

We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. **7** And so, LORD, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You. **8** Rescue me from my rebellion. Do not let fools mock me.

John 3:35-36 (AMP)

35 The Father loves the Son and has given and entrusted all things into His hand. **36** He who believes and trusts in the Son and accepts Him [as Savior] has eternal life [that is, already possesses it]; but he who does not believe the Son and chooses to reject Him, [disobeying Him and denying Him as Savior] will not see [eternal] life, but [instead] the wrath of God hangs over him continually.

Quote by Augustine

"They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them."

Video Clips & Important Articles

Nobody Dies Early - Matt Chandler

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0osq6PSrMek>

"Even Unto Death" - Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAfp8vg4Jz8>

"When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder" by Twila Paris

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bk3gwyw5ps>

"Tempus Fugit" - Yes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqdBmRAieAQ>

Bonus Stuff

2 Peter 3:1-18 (ESV)

1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, **3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. **4** They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." **5** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, **6** and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. **7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. **8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should

perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16** as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Job 7:6-7 (AMPC)

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. **7** Oh, remember that my life is but wind (a puff, a breath, a sob); my eye shall see good no more. **8** The eye of him who sees me shall see me no more; while your eyes are upon me, I shall be gone.

Job 9:25-26 (NIV)

25 My days are swifter than a runner; they fly away without a glimpse of joy. **26** They skim past like boats of papyrus, like eagles swooping down on their prey.

Job 14:1-2 (NLT)

1 How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble! **2** We blossom like a flower and then wither. Like a passing shadow, we quickly disappear.

Psalm 103:15-18 (ESV)

15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; **16** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. **17** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, **18** to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

Quote by Edmund Vance Cooke

"Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce, and whether he's slow or spry, it isn't the fact that you're dead that counts, but only how did you die."

- Edmund Vance Cooke, *The Lutheran Observer, Young Men's Column*, March 18, 1904.

Quote by John Calvin

"Let us consider this settled, that no one has made progress in the school of Christ who does not joyfully await the day of death and final resurrection."

Quote by George Whitefield

"How sweet is rest after fatigue! How sweet will heaven be when our journey is ended."

Quote by John Wesley

"This earthly body is slow and heavy in all its motions, listless and soon tired with action. But our heavenly bodies shall be as fire; as active and as nimble as our thoughts are."

Quotes by Randy Alcorn

"Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world. Why? Because so many have stored up their treasures on earth, not in heaven. Each day brings us closer to death. If your treasures are on earth, that means each day brings you closer to losing your treasures... He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain. He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice. Are you despairing or rejoicing?"

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave it with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"As I go into a cemetery I like to think of the time when the dead shall rise from their graves. ... Thank God, our friends are not buried; they are only sown!"

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"If the Lord Jehovah makes us wait, let us do so with our whole hearts; for blessed are all they that wait for Him. He is worth waiting for. The waiting itself is beneficial to us: it

tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission, and endears the blessing when it comes. The Lord's people have always been a waiting people..."

Quote by Kay Arthur

"Where do you run for help? When you are in trouble, what is your first instinct? Do you run to others or to God? Is it usually the counsel of another rather than the counsel found in waiting upon God in prayer? Why is this the way it is? Why do we run to man before we run to God?"