

# Moses Last Prayer

Psalm 90

# Moses Last Prayer

- Moses' closing supplication is a prayer:
  - Of benediction to the Lord
  - Of respect for the brevity of life
  - Of legacy to the living

# Psalm 90

- The headings to these Psalms are ancient; it reads: “A prayer of Moses, the man of God.”
  - It may be the oldest Psalm in the Bible
- Moses wrote several songs
  - Deut. 31:19 - “Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.”

# Psalm 90

- This prayer appears to have been composed during the wilderness wanderings, after Kadesh Barnea where the ten spies brought an evil report and God's wrath upon the nation of Israel.
- This prayer of Moses appears to be a closing prayer uttered at Aaron or Miriam's funeral, or at the end of a worship assembly, or at the end of the wilderness wanderings.
- It would be appropriate to use today when dismissing a prayer service or conducting a memorial service

# Psalm 90

- It is a unique Psalm
  - Vss 1 - 2 declare God has always been alive and always will be.
  - Vss 3 - 6 teach that people will not always be alive. Life is short.
  - Vss 7 - 11 explain that people have not obeyed God's will.
  - Vss 12 - 17 appeal to God for kindness.

# Psalm 90

- Three Hebrew words for God: Lord, LORD, and God
  - In verses 1 and 17 is the word “Lord,” meaning “master,” someone with authority. It translates the Hebrew word “Adonai.”
  - In verse 13 is LORD, with four capital letters, translating as “Yahweh” or Jehovah, meaning I AM. Declares that God is always alive
  - In verses 2 and 17 is the word “God” translates from “Elohim,” a plural word meaning “All Powerful Rulers with all authority”

## Of Benediction To The Lord

- Psalm 90:1-2 - “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, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

# Of Benediction To The Lord

- God is the sanctuary for His people. What does this mean?
- Syllogism
  - God is the only permanent Being in this impermanent universe.
  - God's people dwell in Him.
  - Therefore, dwelling in God is the only permanent place we have in this temporary world
- God preexists all things, transcends all things, and envelops all things



# Of Benediction To The Lord

- 1Peter 4:19 - “Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”
- Psalm 51:9-11 - “Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me”
- Psalm 84:11 - “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.”

# Of Respect For The Brevity Of Life

- Psalm 90:3-11 - “You turn man to destruction, And say, Return, O children of men. 4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night. 5 You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: 6 In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers. 7 For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. 8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. 9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like 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 only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.”

# Of Respect For The Brevity Of Life

- Verse 4 teaches that God isn't limited by time.
- Verses 5-6, 10 teach us that by comparison man's days are limited.
  - James 4:13-15 - "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; 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. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that"

# Of Respect For The Brevity Of Life

- Moses acknowledges a relationship between sin and death. Verses 3, 7-9, 11 - Moses reveals death as the expression of God's anger for sin
  - Num. 26:61, 65 - “And Nadab and Abihu died when they offered profane fire before the LORD... 65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. So there was not left a man of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun”
  - Rom. 5:12 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”

# Of Respect For The Brevity Of Life

- God does not remain angry and has changed death
  - Psalm 116:15 - “Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- Psalm 90:12-17 - “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. 13 Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. 14 Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days! 15 Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which 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 establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- A lesson to learn - verse 12 - “Teach us to number our days”
- Brevity of life
  - Psalm 39:4-5 - “LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. 5 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- Value of life
  - Eph. 5:15-17 - “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”



# Of Legacy To The Living

- Wisdom for life
  - Prov. 3:13-18 - “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- A Lord to love - verses 13-14
- Repentance is the first expression of love a sinner makes to God
  - Psalm 103:8-18

# Of Legacy To The Living

- Contentment with God, His word, and what He has given is the second expression of love a penitent sinner makes to God
  - Phil. 4:4, 11 - “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ... 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- A life to live - verses 15-17
- A happy life
  - John 16:20 - “Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.”
- A learning life
  - Psalm 77:12 - “I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- A stable life
  - Prov. 4:25-27 - “Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.”

# Of Legacy To The Living

- “I am content to fill a little space if God be glorified.”  
(Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley)
- “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” (John Piper)
- The Bible doesn't say be satisfied to the point where you don't want change, but be satisfied for now until God brings about the change.
- May this be the last words of the last prayer we offer in this life - Psalm 90:13-14 - “Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy...”