

Psalms 90,91

Psalms 90:10-12 The days of our lives are 70 years; and if by reason of strength they are 80 years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for soon it is cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

The 90th Psalm is Moses' Psalm. The 91st Psalm is anonymous but seems to "go with" or provide an answer to Psalms 90. "Psalms 90 tells of the sovereignty of God, Psalms 91 tells of His tenderness; Ps. 90 of the brevity of man's life, Ps 91 of long life in God; in Ps 90, the soul is full of trouble and fear, in Ps 91, he is no longer afraid; in Ps 90, man confesses his sin, in Ps 91, God acknowledges man's love; Ps 90 is a prayer for satisfaction, Ps 91 is the promise of it." (Scroggie)

Psalms 90: Our thinking about life should begin with the Originator of all life who is God. He is before all things, "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God." He is undisputedly "over" us all. His eternal perspective is "a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past..." Too often, we think of God and even attempt to define Him from within our own

experience. Moses had the advantage of God's self-revelation by means of the burning bush, the ten plagues, and Mt Sinai. Verses 7-11 seem to come out of Israel's wilderness experience. In their proximity to God, their sin was revealed. This was true of the obvious as well as the hidden sins of their hearts. Ultimately, Israel's responsible generation was condemned to die in the wilderness and so in that context why would it matter if you lived 70 or 80 years or more or less. The perspective here is one that is limited by the context. Compare it to Paul's thinking in Philippians 1, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain..." But the conclusion in verse 12 is for the ages, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Verses 13-17 describe the blessing possible for those who would draw the same conclusion as the Psalmist. This would be the experience of God's mercy, the blessings of joyful service, and the legacy of a life that counts for good and for God.

Psalms 91: This Psalm begins with a proposition which provokes a response that fires the imagination with the possibilities of blessing, blessing that in the end is affirmed by the Lord.

The proposition is this: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." To dwell in the secret place is to pursue a life lived with the Lord, conscious of His presence and surrendered to His will. To do so will place one under His shadow or in the place where you will be protected and cared for by the Lord. This proposition is an open invitation to the willing, to the believing, to take it up. The Psalmist does this, "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him will I trust.'"

What follows is first the enthusiastic anticipation of what this will mean. "... Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone..."

In the end, God's own voice is heard, "Because He has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him... He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him."