

The Central Message of the Psalms (and Book 4): The LORD Reigns

Psalm	Key phrase	Nature of God
90	From everlasting to everlasting, you are God	Eternal
91	Rest in the shadow of the Almighty	Protector
92	Enthroned on high forever	Benevolent (blesses)
93	Mightier than the waters	Creator, Sovereign, Law
94	O God of vengeance shine forth	Judge
95	Come let us worship and bow down	Creator, King, Shepherd
96	Sing to the LORD a new song	Creator, Judge
97	The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice	Judge
98	Sing to the LORD a new song	Creator, Judge
99	Worship at his footstool, He is holy	Holy
100	Make a joyful noise, enter his gates with thanksgiving	Creator, Shepherd, King

1

Psalm 90: Everlasting

- Author: Moses
- Occasion: Introduction to Book 4
- Genre: Wisdom

The Davidic king is conspicuously absent from Book 4 while the kingship of YHWH is strongly asserted.

The name of Moses occurs 4 times in Book 4 (90, 103, 105, 106), but only once elsewhere (77:21)



2

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

God, Our Eternal Dwelling Place

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a] 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.

The Brevity of Human Life

³ You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"^[b]
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.

The Wrath of God

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^[c] 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?

Petitions

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^[d] of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

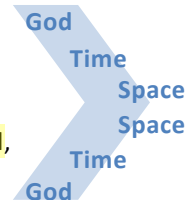
^[a] Psalm 90:1 Some Hebrew manuscripts (compare Septuagint) our refuge
^[b] Psalm 90:3 Or of Adam
^[c] Psalm 90:10 Or pride
^[d] Psalm 90:17 Or beauty

3

God, Our Eternal Dwelling Place

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a] 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.



4

Our Experience in Time

Time as we experience it

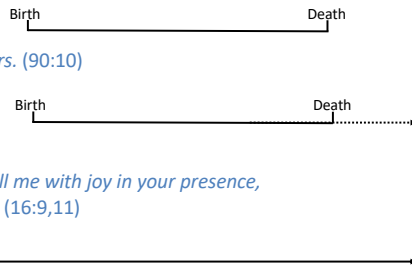
The length of our days is seventy years. (90:10)

Time as we believe we will experience it (eternity)

My body also will live in hope...You fill me with joy in your presence, eternal pleasures at your right hand. (16:9,11)

Time as God experiences it

From everlasting to everlasting you are God. (90:2)



5

The Brevity of Human Life

³ You return man to dust

and say, "Return, O children of man!"^[b]

Adamah = ground, earth

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight

are but as yesterday when it is past,

or as a watch in the night.

Years

Days

Hours

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood;

they are like a dream,

A Flood

A Dream

like grass that is renewed in the morning;

Grass

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

in the evening it fades and withers.

From Birth to Death

Psalm 90:1 Some Hebrew manuscripts

(compare Septuagint) *our refuge*

Psalm 90:3 Or of Adam

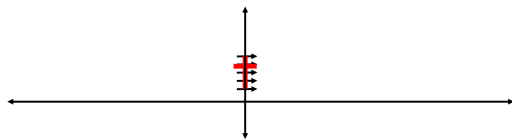
⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

6

God's Relationship to Time

Two Dimensions of Time:

- linear/horizontal
- vertical (length & height)



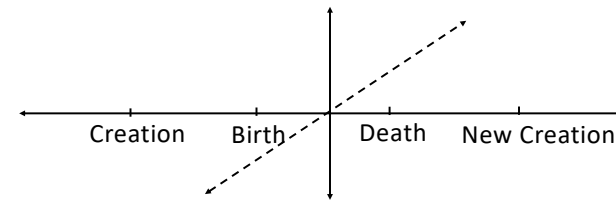
A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by. (90:4)

And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

7

God's Relationship to Time

Three Dimensions of Time: length, height and depth



All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (139:18)

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4)

8

The Wrath of God

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**^[d] is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away. **"the best of them"**
[Psalm 90:10](#) Or *pride*

¹¹ Who considers the power of **your anger**,
and **your wrath** according to the fear of you?

Spiritual
death

Physical
death

Days
Years
Lifetime

9

Eight Petitions Based on These Truths

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^[d] 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. Wisdom

2. Grace

3. Mercy

4. Faithful love

5. Gladness relative
to affliction

6. Legacy

7. Favor of God

8. Establish our work

[Psalm 90:17](#) Or *beauty*

10

Psalm 91: Shelter

- Author: unknown (Moses?)
- Occasion: a prayer before battle?
- Genre: Trust



16

Find Shelter in God (1-2)

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say^[d] to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Shelter from Threats (3-8)

³ For he will deliver you from the **snare of the fowler**
and from the **deadly pestilence**.

⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

⁵ You will not fear **the terror of the night**,
nor **the arrow that flies by day**,

⁶ nor **the pestilence that stalks in darkness**,
nor **the destruction that wastes at noonday**.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

Enemies

Disease

Fear

[Psalm 91:2](#) Septuagint *He will say*

17

Find Shelter in God (9-10)

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge!¹⁰—
¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

Shelter from Threats (11-13)

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

God Speaks (14-16)

¹⁴ “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

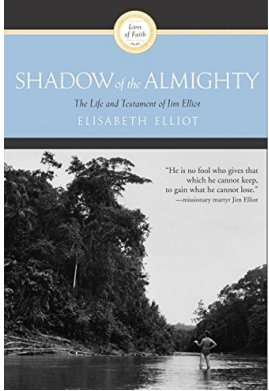
¹⁸ He [Jesus] replied, “I saw
Satan fall like lightning from
heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you
authority to trample on
snakes and scorpions and to
overcome all the power of the
enemy; nothing will harm you.
(Luke 10:18-19)

Matthew 4:6
Luke 4:10-11

Psalm 91:9 Or For you, O LORD, are my
refuge! You have made the Most High
your dwelling place

18

SHADOW of the ALMIGHTY
The Life and Testament of Jim Elliot
ELISABETH ELLIOT



“He is no fool who gives that which he
cannot keep to gain that which he
cannot lose.” – Jim Elliot

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear
those who kill the body, and after that
have nothing more that they can
do. But I will warn you whom to fear:
fear him who, after he has killed, has
authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell
you, fear him!” (Luke 12: 4-5)

19


What do we do with the promises of Psalm 91?

- These promises find their fulfillment in Jesus.
- There are some things worse than death (Luke 12:4-5).
- Death is inevitable. Our purpose as a pastor is to help people have a good death (Eugene Peterson).

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Psalm 92: Palm Tree

- Author: unknown (Moses?)
- Occasion: a song for the Sabbath
- Genre: hymn, wisdom



21

A psalm. A song for the Sabbath.*Call to Praise (1-3)*

- ¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
² to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

Motivation for Praise (4-5)

- ⁴ For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
⁵ How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!

Psalms for the Jewish Liturgical Week

- Sunday (Day 1) - 24
- Monday (Day 2) - 48
- Tuesday (Day 3) - 82
- Wednesday (Day 4) - 94
- Thursday (Day 5) - 81
- Friday (Day 6) - 93
- Saturday (Day 7) - 92

Isaiah 55:8-9

- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

22

The Folly & Destiny of the Wicked (6-9)

- ⁶ The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:
⁷ that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;
⁸ but you, O LORD, are on high forever.
⁹ For behold, your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.

Psalm 90:5b-6

like grass that is renewed in the morning;
⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

Psalm 91:7-8

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

[Psalm 92:10](#) Compare Syriac; the meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain

23

Psalm 92: Palm Tree*Motivation for Praise (10-11)*

- ¹⁰ But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over me ^afresh oil.
¹¹ My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

Psalm 1:3

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

Prosperity of the Righteous (12-15)

- ¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,
¹⁵ to declare that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Psalm 52:7-9

⁷ "See the man who would not make
God his refuge,
but trusted in the abundance of his riches
and sought refuge in his own destruction!"
⁸ But I am like a green olive tree
in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God
forever and ever.
⁹ I will thank you forever,
because you have done it.
I will wait for your name, for it is good,
in the presence of the godly.

[Psalm 92:10](#) Compare Syriac; the meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain

24

Psalms 90, 91, 92 are all connected by "age"

- Ps 90 laments the passing of days
- Ps 91 expresses confidence in the One who lengthens days
- Ps 92 is the thanksgiving for the gift of vigor in old age

25