

“A Refuge for All Generations”

The start of a new year reminds me of beginnings and endings. Our lives feel marked by these words. Each day, month, season, year, and life has a clear beginning and ending. Sometimes the end of a day marks a happy transition such as the end of the work week and beginning of the weekend. Other times, a new season can feel like the end of something good and the start of something daunting like a new job away from family and friends. Since most of our lives are organized into beginnings and endings, it can be difficult to fathom how God exists outside of these bounds. Moses provides a helpful contrast of God’s eternal nature and man’s finite existence in Psalm 90 verses 1-6 and 12:

“1Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.2Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man!’ 4For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. 5You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: 6in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. 12So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

What a blessing that our dwelling place is eternal in nature! Charles Spurgeon explained it this way, “If God himself were of yesterday, he would not be a suitable refuge for mortal men; if he could change and cease to be God he would be but an uncertain dwelling-place for his people.” As you navigate various beginnings and endings in your life, find comfort in knowing that God is a certain and enduring refuge for all generations. At the same time, do not forget the plea at the conclusion of this passage. Moses asks God to “teach us to number our days.” Clearly, there is wisdom in appreciating that our days on earth are limited and that each one is a gift. Thankfully, we can find rest in our eternal God while making the best use of the limited time he has given us on earth. This encourages me as I start the new year, and I hope it will provide encouragement to you as well!

-Caroline Morgan