

**Number [Psalm 90]**  
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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Reading of Verse 12

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"

**SONG: JESUS LOVES ME**

Reading of Verse 6

"In the morning [the grass] springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered."

**SONG: 10000 REASONS**

Reading of Verse 14

"Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."

**SONG: IN CHRIST ALONE**

Reading of Verse 10

"yet the best of [my days] are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."

**SONG: I'LL FLY AWAY**

COMMUNION

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. This morning, our text is Psalm 90.
  - a. The only psalm ascribed to Moses, a prominent biblical character
  - b. May or may not have been written by him, but speaks of his life regardless
  - c. There is uniformity in the story of the Scriptures
    - 1) The Life of Moses patterns the life of Israel, the country he helped liberate
    - 2) Similarly, this Exodus metaphor resonates beyond the O.T. to even our lives
    - 3) Sin >> Slavery >> Redemption >> Freedom
  - d. So this Psalm is about Moses' life, Israel's life, and our lives. THE KEY is verse 12.

**VERSE 12**

*"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."*

1. Something we tend to avoid in our daily lives in contextualizing our existence.
  - a. The psalmist here testifies that true wisdom is recognizing this.
  - b. So tonight, allow me to present a visualization of this concept, using a ribbon
    - 1) Often, religion is a means of making sense of our own mortality.
    - 2) The Christian Scriptures, especially Psalm 90, present this rather uniquely.

**VERSES 3-6**

<sup>3</sup>*You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."*

<sup>4</sup>*A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.*

<sup>5</sup>*Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning:*

<sup>6</sup>*In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.*

1. Let's take these verses backwards, starting with the grass metaphor
  - a. For those of you with yards, you know that grass will keep growing.
  - b. But yard maintenance never ends. As does the cycle of life.
2. God's timing (better known in 2 Peter 3:8)
  - a. The way that God views time differs greatly than the way that we do.
  - b. When we think about death we experience, God knows it more.
    - 1) Thinking about the Moses trek: in the 40 year wilderness experience, death was daily
    - 2) Similarly, every day, whether you think about it or not, people die.
3. Hence, our recollection of dust from verse 3
  - a. It harkens back to the creation and **Genesis 3:19**

*“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

## **A KEY TO LIFE: RECOGNIZING THAT THERE'S A CYCLE**

### **VERSES 7-11**

<sup>7</sup> *We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.*

<sup>8</sup> *You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.*

<sup>9</sup> *All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.*

*“Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures;  
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.*

<sup>11</sup> *If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.*

1. When making sense of life, people don't think the Bible speaks like this.
  - a. We just assume that the Bible is a picture of cute rainbows . . . and it is.
    - 1) But in the Bible, the rainbow follows a world cataclysmic flood.
  - b. We don't like to think of the wrath of God, but it's part of his paradoxical nature
    - 1) He is both wrath and grace
2. And no one is exempt from this wrath. Not even Moses.
  - a. In Numbers 20:12 we see that he sinned and received punishment.

*“But the LORD said to Moses . . . ‘Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.’”*
3. My life's problem: I sin, live in a world of sin, and have a life where bad things happen
  - a. Verse 9 talks about a good life being between 70-80 years.
    - 1) A person who lives that long will have a litany of bad things they endured
    - 2) We think our lives our tough, in Moses' day, mortality rates were much lower.
  - b. There are difficulties of life that bring it down.

## **A KEY TO LIFE: RECOGNIZING THAT WRATH IS REAL**

### **TO THE BEGINNING OF PSALM 90—VERSES 1,2**

<sup>1</sup> *Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.* <sup>2</sup> *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

1. When examining the life of Moses, his life's trek was to get the people of Israel to Canaan.
  - a. As we just saw, because of his sin, he wasn't going to be able to see this to completion.
  - b. The best he got was this: a glimpse of the Promised Land from Nebo.
2. But here, in the O.T., a great understanding of the scope of life.
  - a. Even Moses realized that the true dwelling place was heaven.
  - b. Again, the God of Wrath is also the God of grace and, hence, we return to our Creator
3. Understand this better by limits: put closepins on ribbon to show the brevity of life on earth.

## **A KEY TO LIFE: RECOGNIZING THAT ETERNITY LOOMS LARGE. WE NEED JESUS**

### **SO HOW DO WE OCCUPY OURSELVES WITH THIS IN MIND?**

**\*WITH BAD THINGS LOOMING, DO WE ACCEPT LIVE IN GLOOM? TO THE END OF PSALM 90**

### **VERSE 17**

<sup>17</sup> *May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.*

1. NO! We are called to use our time here in creativity
  - a. This is why I love this Psalm: it's grounded in absolutely reality
  - b. And even though many regard it as a depressing Psalm, I find it liberating.
  - c. **SLIDES:** the artist Banksy

**A KEY TO LIFE: RECOGNIZING THAT I STILL HAVE THINGS TO CREATE. BEAUTY CAN REIGN**

CONCLUSION:

**VERSE 12**

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."