

Eternity of God and the Frailty of Man:

Text: (Psalm 90).

Introduction:

- 1- Most; if not all are familiar with the Book of Psalms in the Bible.
- 2- This morning as stated in the text, we will take a look at Psalms 90 which is one, if not the oldest Psalms written by Moses during the years of the wilderness wanderings.
- 3- This Psalm has certain sayings and similarities **with Deuteronomy** and also **Isaiah 40**. It also is closely associated with the first **three chapters of Genesis**.
- 4- As suggested by the Topic we are dealing in this Psalm with two extremely important and interrelated themes. The Eternity of God (90:1-2, 4) and the Frailty of man (3, 5-12).
 - a- Make a note here. God existed when the earth did not. (V2). Mans notion of length of time are seen in a different light to that of God (V4).
 - b- The frailty of mans earthly life is attributed to his sinfulness in the light of Gods righteousness and Holiness. (Vv 7-8)

Transition:

As we look at this text we see that there are some things that are made possible by the power and grace of an eternal God.

Discussion:

- I- **First, wandering man has a sure and permanent dwelling place. (90:1-2)**
 - A- It is interesting and appropriate that Moses, of all people, should refer to a "dwelling place."
 - 1- I say this because man was never more transient than he was in the days before and during the time of the great leader Moses.
 - 2- The Children of Israel escaped slavery in the land of Egypt only to end up wandering for 40 years in a barren wilderness until an entire generation from 20 and up were lost. (Acts 7:6).
 - B- Moses realised that they always had a dwelling place in God!
 - 1- God had been with them and guided them. His presence had dwelt constantly among them. (Ex 13:21-22, 29: 45-46.)
 - 2- Remember David, David time and again recognised God as the true source of his protection and refuge when he was "on the move" hiding in the rocks and caves from Saul. (Ps 18:1-2)
 - 3- Folks; the same is true with us today. We are but sojourners and pilgrims yet God is our refuge and dwelling place. We really can go to no one else even if we do not recognise or acknowledge such. (I Pet 1:17, 2:11; Col 3:3)
- II- **Dying man can have joy all of His days. (90:14-16).**
 - A- In (Vv 4-6) man's frailness is highlighted in contrast to the eternal nature of God.
 - B- We are here talking of the mortality of man. If any should have been aware of their mortality, it would have been those that fell in the wilderness. (Heb3:17)

- 1- What is mans life span? Well Moses says in **(verse 10) 70 to 80 years**. Think on this. Those who died in the wilderness wanderings from 20 years up had from that time had an outside **remaining life span of 40 years!**
- 2- **Then verse 12 Moses** prays to God that He help them to number their days. (V12). He had become well aware of the temporal nature of life on this earth!
 - 1- How different we are today. We live life as though it is not going to end, we live it as clinging to the physical things placing the spiritual aspects far from our minds, but no matter what life is like the flower that blooms for a while then fades away.
 - 2- As the grass of the fields so are the days of a mans life.
- C- Job says in (14:1), **“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”** Moses says and prays that yes this is true but you can, in this life, rejoice and be glad. He prayed that this would be so. **(Vv 14-16)**. Folks; having God as your true dwelling place you can be happy in this short and difficult life.
- D- How much more should we find this abiding joy?
 - 1- We have more fully revealed to us Gods plan and blessings for our lives. (Rom 8:28)
 - 2- On top of this we have the greatest of all promises, eternal life even though we have stained our souls with sin. **(Rom 6:23)**

III- Frustrated man can find fulfilment. (90:17)

- A- In the text Moses petitions God to **“establish the work of our hands.”**
- B- **Earlier it states that “We finish our years with a sigh.” Moses would know this better than anyone. Think about it!**
 - 1- He spent 80 years preparing to serve and lead Gods people. (Heb 11:25-26)
 - 2- HE led them out of bondage in Egypt only to wander in the wilderness 40 years.
 - 3- He would die in the place were he could see the Promised Land he could not enter because God permitted him not because of disobedience. I am sure he looked with longing and with tears in His eyes knowing the reason why.
 - 4- Yes; he would know what it was to finish life with a sigh!
- C- Still, he prays to the eternal God to ‘Establish the work of our hands.’
 - 1- Yes Moses work was surely established His name does not bring to our minds thoughts of a wasted, vain life!
 - 2- He would, in fact stand in Canaan’s land **(Matt 17:3)**. This honour not bestowed on a wasted life!
- D- What’s the point here? Moses lived a difficult life yet heading to a climactic end. However he placed his trust and faith in the eternal ever living God and knew that his life would not be in vain. We, today have the same opportunity.

Conclude:

- 1- Man searches for meaning, purpose and fulfilment in life. In this Psalm, all of heavens wisdom is not limited to this chapter but it is certainly summed up there!
- 2- Listen, God is the dwelling place for every weary traveller who will seek him. Every mortal has the opportunity to live forever. God gives you that choice. Every weary labourer who places trust in the eternal God will find that his life’s work will stand. Amen. **Invitation:**

Allan (Taken from T Forlines notes)