

(Psa. 90:1-10) "The days of our years..."

A Psalm of Moses in the latter days of his life. Looking back Moses realizes the brevity of life.

So little accomplished for God in his short life span. And through the Holy Spirit Moses composes a song of Life's Brevity.

In the days of Adam men lived into the 900's. Adam lived to be 930 years, during which he had a son name Seth.

Seth, the son of Adam, lived 912 years during which he had a son name Enos.

Enos, Seth's son, lived 905 years; his son Cainan who lived to be 910. Down the line came Methusela who lived until he was 965. The oldest recorded age a man has ever lived in history.

In Adam's day men lived into the 900's.

But after the flood, after the days of Noah, life expectancy went down to about 400 years.

Though Noah lived to be 950, Shem died at 600, Shem's grandson Salah died at 433, and his son at 464.

By the time of Abraham however, men were only living into their hundreds. Abraham died at 165, Moses at 120.

But God told Moses to write, that man's days would be 70-80 years (v.9-10).

And as God was given him this Psalm it dawned on Moses that life was brief, and growing shorter. That there was much to be done for the kingdom of God and very little time to do it.

This Psalm was written, so that we too, might realize the brevity of life. That we realize how much there is to do for God, and how little time there is to do it.

When you consider that the life expectancy of the average person is around 70 years, and you compare that to Moses' 120 years, or Abraham's 165 years, or Noah's 950 years, LIFE IS BRIEF.

The songwriter wrote,

Only one life, 'twill soon be passed
And only what's done for Christ will last

THE BREVITY OF LIFE!

I. The Brevity of Life Shows Our Need of God.

A. God is eternal (v.2).

1. Before creation.

- > Before anything was, you are!
- > **Not, you were, but you are!**
- > The only thing we know about the creation of the world, God told us.
- > **Man's attempt at describing the evolution of the world is a joke.**
- > But God was there, he was there before there was a there!

2. God is from everlasting, to everlasting

- > **We have no concept of eternity.**
- > We speak of it, and explain it, but we really don't understand it.

3. From everlasting...

- > **Before our concept of time.**
- > Before time existed.
- > **Before our feeble minds can comprehend.**

4. From everlasting - To everlasting...

- > Beyond our conception of time.
- > **Beyond our comprehension of the end of time.**
- > From time out of mind, to time out of mind.

> From everlasting, To everlasting,
thou art God!

God is eternal.

B. Man is temporal (v.3).

1. From the beginning of man's life on earth, he has been concerned with life's brevity.

> (Job 7:1-7; 14:1-2) Job wrote,
"Man is of few days, and full of trouble."

> Paul wrote,

"It is appointed unto men once to die."

> James wrote,

"What is your life, it is even a vapor which appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

> Moses wrote,

"We spend our years as a tale, that is told."

3. God is eternal, but man's life is very brief.

> God ever lives, but man has an appointed time to die.

> Every day we are one step closer to our grave.

> **Every breath you breath, brings you one breath closer to your last breath.**

> This is not morbid, just the facts.

God is eternal, but man is temporal.

C. God is not affected by time (v.4).

1. No man has ever lived a thousand years.

- > Yet to God, 1000 years is but a day.
- > **(v.4) But a watch in the night.**
- > If a thousand years is but a passing night, what is our 70 years life?

2. God sees the end from the beginning.

- > **We see life as a passing train, one car at a time, but God, sees the whole train at once.**
- > If each train were a year of our life, we would see each year pass, and it would seem so long.

- > **But, God sees the thousands of train cars at once, and our 70 are but a very few of them.**

3. God is not affected by time.

- > He's never in a hurry.
- > **He's not worried about running out of time.**
- > He's not affected by time.

D. Man is affected by time (v.5-6).

1. Time carries us away like a flood.

- > **A flood carries with it everything in it's path.**
- > You observe the aftermath of a flood, and all in it's path has been swept away.
- > **Time carries everything away with it.**
- > You and I have no power to stop time from carrying us away with it.

2. Time comes and goes as a sleep in the night.

- > **You set the alarm, and lay your head on the pillow, and the next thing you know the alarm is going off to wake you up.**
- > And you sit up and say to yourself, "Wow, I feel like I just fell asleep, and it's already time to get up."

3. That's how time goes.

- > **One day your 20 and think your going to live forever.**
- > Then your 30, 40, then 50, and your saying, "What happened, my how quickly the years went by."
- > **The older you get, the faster the years fly by.**

3. Like grass, it grows so very fast, only to be mowed down.

- > It begins as a seed, then it grows..

> Then its lush, then it is mowed.

4. Like a tale that is told (v.9).

> Like a tale, it starts, a climax is reached, then it is over.

> **That's the way life is, so very finite, so very brief.**

“It is appointed unto man once to die.”

> Everyday, every hour, every minute, we are that much closer to that day.

E. Our only hope is in God (v.1).

1. Our only hope is to make God our dwelling place.

> **Temporal man, needs an eternal God.**

> Finite man, needs an infinite God.

> **Dying man, needs a living God.**

> The brevity of life shows our need of God.

2. (Psa.90:1cp.Psa. 91:1-2; 9-16).

> **Psalm 90 shows the brevity of life of temporal man.**

> Psalm 91 shows the eternal life of those who make God their dwelling place.

> **Psalms 90 reminds us that we are going to die.**

> Psalms 91 reminds us that we can live forever.

> The only hope of dying man is to flee to God for life.

3. God offers life through His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that liveth and believeth in me, shall never die..."

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life..."

"I give unto the eternal life, and they shall never perish."

The brevity of life shows our need of God.

II. Why Is Life So Brief (Psa. 90:7-11)?

A. God's wrath is toward man (v.7-8).

1. God warned Adam of the consequences of disobedience.

"In the day ye eat of it, thou shalt surely die..."

> The very moment Adam disobeyed God, he died spiritually, from that moment on, he began to die physically.

2. "Death passed upon all men..."

> All Adam's children, are born spiritually dead.

> And from our very birth we begin to die physically.

"In Adam, all die..."

> **We are born spiritually dead, on our way to the grave, and to hell.**

> Does it not trouble you, that life is brief, and that we have but a short time.

> **There is no time to neglect the opportunities for salvation.**

B. God's wrath is against sin (v.9-11).

1. God has never dealt lightly with sin.

God said, "the wages of sin is death..."

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die..."

"And, Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death..."

"God is angry with the wicked, everyday..."

> **Sin is never taken lightly.**

2. Adam brought sin into the world, and with it death.

> Sin has always been a killer.

> **People say things like, "If God is a loving God, why is there so much pain and suffering?"**

> It's not God's fault. God has repeatedly warned man.

"If thou eat of it, thou shalt surely die."

> Obey me and live, disobey me and die.

"Marriage is honorable...but whoremongers, and adulterers, God will judge..."

God's wrath is against sin.

C. Sin has brought death into the world.

1. As sin became more and more rampant...

> So disease, and murder, grew. And, as they grew, man's lifespan grew shorter.

2. Adam's sin introduced death, man's increased wickedness has made death much more prevalent.

> Adam brought it to us, but we have increased it.

> **Life is brief, because we were born in sin, and because we have increased in sin.**

> God has promised death to those who chose sin, and reject His offer of salvation.

III. The Prayer of Moses in Light of Life's Brevity (Psa. 90:12-17).

A. To use our brief lives wisely (v.12).

1. The devil knows he has but a short time.

- > He's been at his work for 1000's of years, yet he is concerned about his short time.
- > **You and I have but 40-50 years left, if that much, yet we think we have forever.**
- > If the devil is concerned about the few hundred years he has left to undo the work of God.

- > **We then should be concerned about the very few years we have to serve God.**

2. God forbid that we should waste our entire lives on temporal things.

Moses said, "Lord, teach us to number our years, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom..."

- > **God don't let me pass my days as fooling around, and never accomplishing anything.**
- > Some men are geniuses at this world's knowledge, but are idiots concerning the things of God.

"Lord, teach us..." to be wise in the things of God.

B. To turn quickly towards God (v.13) and restore fellowship (v.14-15).

1. Time wasted lost and away from God can never be reclaimed.

> All the years of sin, and wasted living, not one minute of them can be reclaimed.

Moses says, "Lord help us to repent and turn quickly to you..."

2. He prays for God's quick restoration.

> God will forgive immediately, but He does not always restore immediately.

> **God will forgive you instantly, but He may not reinstate you instantly.**

> Miriam had to wait 7 days.

3. How many foolish hours we have spent on useless things.

> **How many foolish hours in front of a T.V.**

> How many foolish hours fighting with one another?

> **How many foolish hours entertaining ourselves?**

> How many foolish hours out of fellowship with God.

4. Moses prays...

- > "Lord, life is too brief to spend one minute on foolish things, away from and out of fellowship with you."

C. To serve God unto His glory (v.16).

1. God's work.

- > Always keep in mind that it's God's work.
- > **If you begin to think of it as your work for God, you will soon quit.**
- > But, if you will continue to see it as God working through you, you can go on and on.

2. God's servants.

- > **He is worthy of our service.**
- > It is a privilege to serve God.

D. That our children would learn of God's glory in our brief life.

1. Our foremost work as parents should be to instill a love for God in our children.

- > **Service to God, begins at home.**
- > Soulwinning is important, but not as important as winning your own children to God.
- > **Evangelism starts at home.**
- > Bible study starts at home.

2. This is where many Christians have failed.

- > **We have failed to instill a love for God in our children.**
- > Parents are in church, but not their children.
- > **Dad and Mom pray, but not Johnny.**
- > Where are your children?

3. Moses said, "Oh God, if I don't accomplish anything else as your servant, let me win my children to you.

- > **Dads, Moms, even if you have little or no desire to serve God, you should for your children's sake.**
- > Zeal will most often decrease in our children.
- > **In other words, your children will be about half as zealous as you are.**
- > If you have little or no zeal for the things of God, don't expect your children to have any.
- > **I want my life to count for my children's sake.**

E. That God would establish our works (v.17) .

1. When your brief life is over, will your life have made a difference to the world you left behind?

"Ye are the salt of the earth."

- > **We are to have an effect on the earth.**

- > What effect will you leave behind?
- > **Some will leave this world nothing but a bad memory.**

2. Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave.

- > Will anyone thank God, that you were on this earth?
- > **Have you made an eternal difference?**

3. I want my life to count for eternity.

- > I want to see people in heaven, that God used me to win.

Moses said, "Lord, establish thou my works..."

- > **Unless God establishes them, they will be fruitless.**

Conclusion:

Moses prayed that we might turn quickly to Christ in our short lives.

That we might use our brief lives wisely.

That we might serve God unto His glory.

That our children might learn to love God.

That God would establish our work.