

Psalm 90

This is the only song of Moses in Psalms. However, there are two other songs of Moses found in the Pentateuch (Exodus 15 and Deuteronomy 32). This Psalm often titled, “Teach Us to Number our Days,” is a steadfast source of strength and comfort, especially in times of difficulty. But even in the midst of sorrow, God’s people can acknowledge the security they have in the Lord.

We can delight in knowing the Lord is the refuge and protection of His people. Moses starts this psalm by stating, *“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.”* Moses understood that Yahweh’s help to His people did not begin with the exodus from Egypt. Rather, their pilgrim beginnings starting with Abraham, God had been their dwelling place, their refuge and protection all along. Today, we have a much bigger understanding of God’s covenant with His people, culminating in the salvific work of Christ.

As Moses led God’s people in the wilderness on the slow route to the Promised Land (Canaan), he saw mountains on the horizon and reflected on the truth that God existed even before the mountains. It was God who formed the earth and the world. Furthermore, Moses contrasts humanity’s frailty against the eternity of God. The eternal nature of the Holy God with the frail and temporary nature of sinful man.

Having considered the frail nature of humanity and the righteous judgment of God, Moses asks God for the wisdom to understand the shortness of life. That we may gain a heart of wisdom and to learn to number our days. Moses also carefully considers the judgment of God and pleads for His presence, for His compassion, and for His mercy – the *hesed* of Yahweh – His loyal covenant love! Moses understood the importance of lasting meaning in life, something that will continue to the next generation, and asks God to bless their work and their lives.

This Psalm has shed some new light and challenged me to ask God, that regardless of life’s circumstances, is my work having lasting meaning, knowing that without God’s blessing, the temporal gain is but a fleeting moment and potentially of little or no eternal value.