

Prayer Principles and Practice Part 4

Developing the Prayer Life (Part 4) – Moses' Prayer

Psalm 90:1-17

Devotional Questions – The Prayer of Moses

1. *Compare Psalm 90:1-2 with the beginning of Jesus' model prayer ('Our Father' Matthew 6:9-10). What thoughts do you find in common?*
2. *How permanent were the homes of God's adopted children? How certain and permanent a 'dwelling place' is the Lord (Psalm 90:1)?*
3. *How does it help our prayer attitude to remember God is the Creator of the earth? What does that do for us?*
4. *How does it help our prayer attitude to remember that God is timeless ('from everlasting to everlasting')?*
5. *What do these verses do to our sense of self-importance?*
6. *What sins would God be angry about?*
7. *What does it mean to 'number our days' (Psalm 90:12)?*
8. *What wisdom do we gain from the discipline that God used on the Israelites (Hebrews 3:15-4:2, 12:10-12)?*
9. *What does Moses want God to do (Psalm 90:13)?*
10. *Can Moses see God's love in all things (Psalm 90:14-17)?*
11. *What does he see as important for the enjoyment of life (Psalm 90:14-16)?*
Psalm 90:14:
Psalm 90:15:
Psalm 90:16:
12. *What is Moses asking God for (Psalm 90:15)?*
13. *Even though Moses and his generation were denied entrance into the Promised Land, what comfort did they have and pray for?*
14. *Considering Moses' prayer how does this help us pray today?*

Devotional Questions – Moses’ Prayer, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *Volume II of the Book of Psalms, Psalm 90* and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 831 for detailed comment.

1. Compare Psalm 90:1-2 with the beginning of Jesus’ model prayer (‘Our Father’ Matthew 6:9-10). What thoughts do you find in common?

Psalm 90:1-2 state ***“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”***

Matthew 6:9-10 state ***“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”***

- God is addressed directly. ***“Lord, thou...”*** Psalm 90:1, ***“Our Father...”*** Matthew 6:9
- God is addressed personally. ***“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations”*** Psalm 90:1, ***“Our Father...”*** Matthew 6:9
- God is addressed worshipfully. ***“...even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”*** Psalm 90:2, ***“Hallowed be thy name”*** Matthew 6:9

Noting that today’s believer is ***“...upright in heart”*** by means of obedience to 2 Timothy 2:22 ***“Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”*** today’s believer in the light of Psalm 90:1-2, Matthew 6:9-10 should remember to apply in prayer for worship, intercession and supplication Psalm 3:6-7, 10 ***“Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings...O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.”***

2. How permanent were the homes of God’s adopted children? How certain and permanent a ‘dwelling place’ is the Lord (Psalm 90:1)?

Those homes were not permanent for now because those children ***“...confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”*** Hebrews 11:13. Even today’s believers would have to confess with Paul that ***“...we...have no certain dwellingplace”*** 1 Corinthians 4:11 but a day will come when ***“...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord”*** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

3. How does it help our prayer attitude to remember God is the Creator of the earth? What does that do for us?

It helps this writer according to Isaiah 40:28 ***“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding”*** and in turn provides a reminder to Luke 18:7-8 ***“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily...”***

4. How does it help our prayer attitude to remember that God is timeless (‘from everlasting to everlasting’)?

See Question 3 and note that therefore ***“...the prayers of the saints...”*** are ever present with Him as John records. ***“And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand”*** Revelation 8:4.

5. *What do these verses do to our sense of self-importance?*

Reduce it to a profound sense of self-impotence, as King Jehoshaphat well understood and as today's believer should likewise understand especially as it should be for him in ministry as Paul testifies **"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries"** 1 Corinthians 16:9. **"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee"** 2 Chronicles 20:12.

6. *What sins would God be angry about?*

King Solomon explains those sins and what to do concerning them. **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** Proverbs 28:13.

7. *What does it mean to 'number our days' (Psalm 90:12)?*

Psalm 90:12 states **"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."** The expression means to make best use of an ever-diminishing resource as Paul urges **"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"** Ephesians 5:15-17 and get on with doing it as the Lord Himself declared concerning Himself with a sense of godly urgency. **"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"** John 9:4.

8. *What wisdom do we gain from the discipline that God used on the Israelites (Hebrews 3:15-4:2 "But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?" Hebrews 3:17, 12:10-12 "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness" Hebrews 12:10)?*

The wisdom that should be gained is as King David expressed it in prayer. **"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer"** Psalm 19:13-14.

9. *What does Moses want God to do (Psalm 90:13)?*

Psalm 90:13 states **"Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants."** Moses wants the Lord to come back. Paul exhorts today's believer to want the same. **"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ"** 2 Thessalonians 3:5.

10. *Can Moses see God's love in all things (Psalm 90:14-17)?*

Summing up the prayer of Psalm 90:14-17, Psalm 90:14 states **"O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days"** showing that Moses is confident of God's mercy. That is how Paul exhorts today's believer. **"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"** Hebrews 4:16.

11. What does he see as important for the enjoyment of life (Psalm 90:14-16)?

Psalm 90:14: “...thy mercy...” because “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” Lamentations 3:21-23.

Psalm 90:15: God’s gladness because “Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased” Psalm 4:7.

Psalm 90:16: “thy work...unto thy servants, and thy glory unto thy children” because “...it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” Isaiah 25:9.

12. What is Moses asking God for (Psalm 90:15)?

Moses is in effect asking God for deliverance from evil. Psalm 90:15 states “Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil”. Paul assures today’s believer of the same deliverance. “But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil” 2 Thessalonians 3:3.

13. Even though Moses and his generation were denied entrance into the Promised Land, what comfort did they have and pray for?

Those like Moses who was nevertheless “Moses the man of God” Deuteronomy 33:1, Joshua 14:6, 1 Chronicles 23:14, 2 Chronicles 30:16, Ezra 3:2 could have the same anticipation that Job looked forward to. “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” Job 19:25-26.

14. Considering Moses’ prayer how does this help us pray today?

It helps this writer according to Moses’ concluding prayer, the application of which is current for today’s believer and his calling.

“And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it” Psalm 90:17.

