

Highlights from the Psalms

Psalm 90:1-17

God's Grace Even in Judgment

A. Acknowledge God's love & care

1. He is our dwelling place: Refuge, home —oasis of love & security

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2. He is the Creator, the One who gave birth to the universe: A picture of parental care

3. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

B. Recognize the problems of human mortality

1. The appointment with death

2. Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

3. The brevity of life

a) We die so quickly: If we live 1000 years, it is only like one day to God

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

b) We are like fleeting dreams that come & go in the night

c) We are like new grass that springs forth in the morning but by evening dries up & withers away

d) Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

4. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

C. The alienation between God & man

1) God's holy anger creates a great barrier between Himself & us

2) The cause: Our sins, both open & secret sins

For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

D. The wretched trials & sufferings of life

1) We die in sorrow & moaning

For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

2) We live about 70 to 80 years & our days are filled with trouble & suffering

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

E. The power of God's anger to execute justice: He dooms all who refuse to fear (revere) Him, He. 9:27; 2 Pe. 2:9; Jude 14–16

Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Appeal for God's mercy & help

1. That He teach us to live wisely & make the most of each day

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

2. That He return to us & not delay: No longer be alienated but instead have compassion on us

Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

3. That He satisfy us daily with His unfailing love (mercy)

a) By filling us with joyful song & rejoicing in life

O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

b) By replacing our former years of affliction & evil with a spirit of gladness — gladness that lasts as long as our former misery

Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

c) By revealing His works to His people, Ps. 111

d) By revealing His glory to our children

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

F. That He shelter us with His favor & make us successful in life — our personal behavior as well as our work

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.