

Lesson From Moses About Life

Psalm 90

Psalms: Encountering God's Heart Through His Playlist

By Dave Urbanski

The truths of Psalm 90 that Pastor Scott unpacked this past Sunday — how big God is and how small we are, the rapid passage of time, and that the Lord is our ultimate and everlasting home, to name but a few — was a timely endeavor for me.

I learned this week that one of my aunts passed away. Just two months ago, as you may recall, my mother passed away. My aunt and my mom were sisters, just one year apart in age. Now they're both gone seemingly in a flash of time. If there was ever a moment when the eventuality of death, the relative brevity of life in light of eternity, and the necessity to make every day count for the Lord was bluntly apparent, it is right now. This very second. To "number our days," as verse 12 of Psalm 90 exhorts, and to do it today.

The portion of Psalm 90 that grabbed me the most reads, "You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble ..."

Oh, so true. And also quite stark and sobering.

But in contrast, the very start of Psalm 90 is comforting, as it's all about a promise about who the Lord is for us. He's "our dwelling place." With that, verse 2 underscores how big God is — how massive and timeless and unmovable that dwelling place is — compared to us: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Pastor Scott asked us, "Where do we spend our time abiding?" Is it spent wrapped up and consumed by flimsy, temporal, meaningless specks of dust on our smart phones and screens? Or is it spent following the One who has no beginning and no end? Who not only exists outside of time, but also who CREATED time itself?

Among the other helpful nudges Pastor Scott offered Sunday in his breakdown of Psalm 90 is that while God hates our sin (our "iniquities" as described in verse 8) and cannot exist alongside it, his son Jesus became sin for us — and as a result, we can marvel and be ever thankful for that amazing grace extended to us.

Even more convicting was Pastor Scott's reminder that in the face of a culture that coaxes and prods and advertises that the ultimate end in life is to squeeze as much pleasure out of it as possible, we must push back against that in light of who God is. Therefore, NO! Our job in life is NOT to look for every possible way to "have fun." Pastor Scott said instead it's to blast past the vanishing and vain and weak pleasures the world offers and go after the eternal riches the Lord has in store for us.

"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love," verse 14 reads, "that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Indeed.

Let us this week heed the message of Psalm 90. To know full well how big God is, to realize how small we are compared to him, and to ponder the truth that he's given all of us a finite number of days on earth to know him, enjoy him, and carry out his will. So instead of "counting" our aches and pains and the bad things that have happened to us, day after day after day, let us count and catalog the blessings the Lord has given us — and also relish the opportunities with the time we have left on this planet to let the Lord work in and through us. To make our lives count!