

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

PSALM 90

Psalm 90

Psalm ninety begins "Book IV" of the five-book division of Psalms. The song is actually a prayer of Moses, the Man of God. Moses speaks of steadfastness of God in contrast to the temporary and transient nature of this earthly existence. The contrast is heightened as Moses compares a person's earthly life to eternity and God's eternal nature. If a man lives to be very old, it is but like a drop in the ocean of time and eternity. Metaphor and analogy are used extensively to illustrate these immortal truths. Remember the principle in teaching, *"the more complex the concepts one is seeking to teach, the more numerous and concrete the illustrations must be."* The book of Hebrews, chapter eleven is the best illustration of this in the Bible. The writer gives the definition of "faith" an abstract concept, in the opening two verses of the chapter and then proceeds to use the remainder of a lengthy chapter to "illustrate" and concretize the faith concept. So, Moses uses many analogies in life to illustrate its brevity.

A thousand years are like a day, is not saying this is a template for how God measures time, rather to show that God does not reckon time as we do, since He looks

at life from a perspective we cannot. He uses a flood, sleep, grass, all of which come and go; they are all temporary. Verse six emphasizes our frailty in our constantly falling short of God's best and continually bringing God's wrath upon our short lives because of our waywardness. God gives seventy years a marker for living a full life, but some will live longer and that is a gift from God, but there are sorrows, heartache and trouble that come with an extended life. Many who live to be in their nineties that are interviewed will often say, I feel alone and miss my loved ones and long-gone companions. Because of their longevity, they have outlived their companion, friends and some even their children. He ends with prayers and pleas for wisdom in life and to gain a heart of understanding. He prays for gladness and joy to accompany life for however long it is. He also prays that the work that one is given to do would be established and live on after one departs this life.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear God, please help me to know the temporary nature of my life on earth and live all my days for you. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
