



**“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, ever from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2).**

## **God Is Eternal**

**Central Truth:** Mortal man should follow the direction of the eternal God.

**L291. Date:** September 1987. **Text:** Psalm 90:1-12.

**Topic:** God: Attributes of.

Here is a psalm born out of experience. It was written by Moses near the end of the forty-year wandering in the wilderness. He had witnessed the death of almost a whole generation, most of those who were twenty years of age or above at the time of their rebellion at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 14:29). He realized that his own death was nearing. Yet with the passing generations of men, God remained the same. Psalm 90 was born out of that realization.

Moses saw that God is eternal and man is mortal. He saw that sin is the trouble. He saw that life is short. He saw that judgment is coming. Out of that realization was born Psalm 90.

What a psalm that is for today! How desperately it is needed in our generation! Let us see our mortality against God's immortality and fall on our faces to worship Him.

### **I. THE NATURE OF GOD (Psalm 90:1, 2)**

**A. God is personal.** *“LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place”* (Psalm 90:1). What is our dwelling place? It is not a “what” but a “who.” God does not give us a dwelling place; He is our dwelling place. *“God is our refuge and strength”* (Psalm 46:1). Notice the first person pronoun “I” as God says, *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee*

*with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10). In response to that we cry, “O GOD, thou art my God” (Psalm 63:1). “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:6).*

Do you have the assurance of a personal relationship with God? Jesus came so that God would be your Father and you His dear child. Trust Jesus and rejoice in that relationship.

**B. God is unchanging.** *“LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations” (Psalm 90:1). For how long has God been the dwelling place of those who trust Him? “In all generations” He has been the dwelling place of believers. The generations of mortal beings come and go, but God remains the same. He is more enduring than the world itself (Psalm 102:25-27). He declares, “I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6). We rejoice that He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). What is said of Him in ancient Scripture is as true today as when it was written. He does not change; there is not even a shadow of turning in Him (James 1:17).*

**C. God is the Creator.** *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). Who formed the earth with its seas and mountains? God did. Who established the world of mankind with its citizens? God did. We read Genesis 1 and then praise Him, saying, “Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee” (Nehemiah 9:6). We do not need “proof” which will convince the unbeliever. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3).*

He who created all things by His great power and according to His sovereign will is He whom we call “Father” through faith in Jesus Christ. What a privilege!

**D. God is eternal.** *“From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). God has taken an oath, saying, “I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever” (Deuteronomy 32:40). His arms are “the everlasting arms” which support us (Deuteronomy 33:27). We praise Him with the words, “Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations” (Psalm 145:13). We can have assurance for time and eternity since our heavenly Father will never die or change. Glory!*

**E. God is God!** He is not named God or called God. He is God. He

identified himself to Abraham by the name God Almighty, saying, *“I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect”* (Genesis 17:1). He revealed himself to Moses by the name, *“I AM THAT I AM”* (Exodus 3:14), a name that many believe to be a root of JEHOVAH (Exodus 6:3). His name reveals His nature. As the Son of God, Jesus said, *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”* (Revelation 1:8).

## II. THE NATURE OF GOD'S CREATURE (Psalm 90:3-12)

**A. Man is mortal.** With a word God turns man into nothing (Psalm 90:3). Man lives in a house of clay whose foundation is in the dust (Job 4:19). He cannot deliver himself from death and the grave (Psalm 89:48; Ecclesiastes 8:8). The mortality of man stands in stark contrast with the immortality of God who made man and to whom man must give account. The wise man will yield to God and seek to do His will.

**B. Man is temporal.** The Bible says of God, *“A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night”* (Psalm 90:4). The Bible says of man, *“The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, . . . it is soon cut off, and we fly away”* (Psalm 90:10). A man eighty years of age is considered an old man. With God a thousand years is no more than a day; He is beyond the influence of time. What a God He is!

How temporary man appears in view of the eternity of God. *“Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations”* (Psalm 135:13). Scientists tell us that the sun will bum out in a few billion years and all the planets will be covered with ice. The Bible states that *“the earth . . . and the heavens”* shall *“perish,”* or change from their present form; God will *“fold them up”* as a garment. In any case, God will still be here; He will remain *“the same,”* and His *“years shall not fail”* (Hebrews 1:10-12). We can trust Him, whatever occurs.

**C. Man is weak.** He is as helpless as a leaf swept away in a flood of waters; he is as temporary as the grass which grows in the morning but is cut down and withers before nightfall (Psalm 90:5, 6). But God does not despise us for our weakness. *“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust”* (Psalm 103:13, 14). He who is strong, to whom alone belongs power (Psalm 62:11), is thoughtful and kind toward us. He helps us in our weakness.

It is appropriate for weak man to pray to the powerful God, *“LORD,*

*make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am*” (Psalm 39:4). In our weakness we should flee to Him for strength.

**D. Man is sinful.** That is the most tragic fact of all. Not only does man sin, but God also knows about his sin. The psalmist lamented, *“Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance”* (Psalm 90:8). Everything we think, say, or do is known clearly to God (Psalm 139:1-12). Not even a small thing is hidden from Him (Heb. 4:13).

When evil surrounds us and our personal sins overwhelm us so that our hearts fail us, there is yet a recourse for us. We can cry to God, *“Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me”* (Psalm 40:13). And He will! *“If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared”* (Psalm 130:3, 4). He who is described by the heavenly beings as thrice holy (Isaiah 6:3) is gracious and forgiving toward sinners. Praise His holy name!

In view of this teaching on the nature of God and the nature of man, we should pray, *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Psalm 90:12). An understanding of the great doctrines reviewed here will certainly lead us to humility and faith toward God.

Conduct yourself toward God as toward your Creator, Lord, Judge, and Father in Jesus Christ. *“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary”* (Isaiah 8,13,14). Because we have so few years to spend here on earth and are so limited in our abilities, we should spend them wisely under the direction of God.

## Questions

1. How is Psalm 90 related to the exodus from Egypt?
2. In what sense is God our “dwelling place”?
3. How does Psalm 90:1 prove that God is unchanging?
4. How does Psalm 90:2 relate to Nehemiah 9:6?
5. How does Psalm 90:4 contrast with Psalm 90:10?
6. What hope is expressed in Psalm 130:3, 4?
7. How can you apply this study to your life this week?