

“NYE - Number our days” (12-31-23)

Introduction: A Psalm of Moses - written after the people rebelled & believed the bad report rather than God’s promise (Num. 13 & 14), or during the ensuing wandering as a consequence to this.

- **At a big transition point:** out of Egypt on the cusp of the promised land (New Year - new me!)
- **Or the monotony of wandering:** stuck in the rut of the wilderness (New Year - big deal just another day)

1) Consider the Lord

Psalm 90:1-2 (ESV)

(1) A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. (2) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

vs. 1 - He is a dwelling place for people through the generations. I can look beyond my own circumstances to see His faithfulness as a source of refuge always!

vs. 2 - Our refuge is the everlasting Creator

everlasting - looking back to ancient time long past & also ahead into the future beyond the horizon

He is from everlasting to everlasting, and his love endures as an everlasting love . . .

Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)

the LORD appeared to his people from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Application: God is our starting point and our home base. His love & faithfulness endure.

2) Consider yourself - our lifespan and our condition

a) consider the brevity & frailty of your life . . .

Psalm 90:3-6 (ESV)

(3) You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”

(4) For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

(5) You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

(6) in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Note: Thousand years - like a day, or even a few hours

Compared to the everlasting one, our time is like a breath!

Example: Claire - (Me to the kids: we can’t choose the manner or timing of death)

Consider: We are frail, our time is short. We flourish and we fade. How do we handle flourishing and fading?

b) consider your sin and its consequences . . .

Psalm 90:7-9 (ESV)

(7) For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

(8) You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

(9) For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

Note: Take note of how God feels about sin, be honest about your “hidden” sin, consider sin’s consequence

Our days pass / **our years** end - under God’s wrath and our own sigh!

Example: Recent marriage tension (turning point - realizing I had to deal with me)

Consider: We are frail - we are separated from God and this is an even worse fate than a short lifespan

c) consider how you pass your days . . .

Psalm 90:10-12 (ESV)

(10) The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

(11) Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

(12) So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Years of our life - our life span is set and even a full life is still very short. So much of it is toil & trouble.

So what do we do in light of that? Consider the **fear of the Lord** and learn from Him to **Number our days**.

Consider: Often our resolutions are about what we want, but what does He want? We ought to consider that!

Proverbs 9:9-11 (ESV)

(9) Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. (10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

(11) For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Note: In light of who God is, and what He wants, and in light of the shortness of my time on earth . . .

What are my aims, and how do I then live?

Application: Walk daily (that’s all we’ve got) - in the fear of the Lord!

3) Call on the Lord, and walk with Him

Psalm 90:13-16 (ESV)

(13) Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

(14) Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

(15) Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

(16) Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Note: The one who really understands the fear of the Lord will long for His presence - Because I’m afraid to live apart from Him, lost and on my own. His presence brings: satisfaction, love, rejoicing, & gladness!

Moses asks that we would see His work & His power - this is what Advent is about!

Let’s learn to see this in the big picture, and watch for it in our lives.

This gives purpose and hope and brings gladness even in the midst of trouble and affliction.

Conclusion: Moses closes with a blessing, that comes with a proper reset from the above reflections . . .

Psalm 90:17 (ESV)

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!