

Psalm 90:1-12
(Numbering our Days)

The Exodus Generation lost the privilege of entering the Land of Israel. It would be the next generation, the Wilderness Generation, that the Lord allowed to enter the Land under Joshua. The Exodus Generation, then, was under a sentence of physical death in the wilderness, meaning they would die outside the Land. Based upon the population numbers given in the Book of Numbers, this means that Moses saw the death of about 1,200,000 people in a 38-year period. This would be the entire adult population that left Egypt, those from age 20 upward. The wilderness, which God intended to be simply a place of passing through to a new Land, had become a huge cemetery. What does it mean to have 1,200,000 people die in a 38-year period? It means that 31,580 people died per year. More specifically, 87 people died every single day—87 funerals per day—all because of the sin at Kadesh Barnea.¹ Moses wrote Psalm 90 at the end of the 40 years of Wilderness Wanderings and at the end of seeing a whole generation die away in the wilderness—including members of his own family, Aaron and Miriam among them.²

I. God is larger than life and He is the protective shelter of all His People. v1-v2

- A. God has been Israel's protective shelter for all the generations of their existence. v1
- B. God has always been; He has no beginning and no end. v2

II. God controls the life and death of mankind and calls mankind to repent v3-v6

- A. God has limited the life of mankind on earth.
- B. God has appointed all mankind to die.
- C. God has called for repentance of man before they die.

III. God has limited mankind's life on earth because of sin. v7-v10

- A. Mankind's sin both public and private are revealed before the presence of God.
- B. God's judgment on Mankind's sin has led to the limited life of mankind on earth.
- C. Man's basic lifespan is about 80 years some live a little more some live a little less
- D. Whether a man lives 80 years more or less his life is still fleeting.

¹ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, "Psalm 90: An Exposition," *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 4 4*, no. 1-2 (1998): 20-2.

² Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, "Psalm 90: An Exposition," *Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 4 4*, no. 2 (1998): 2.

IV. God's wrath does not motivate most of mankind to change their ways. v11

- A. Very few people understand the intensity of divine wrath aroused by sinfulness.
- B. Very few people understand that the divine wrath of God aroused by sinfulness should induce a sense a fear in them to turn away from sin.

V. God's wrath should motivate mankind to consider their life in light of the limited time they have left on earth and wrath of God aroused by their sin. V12

- A. We need to evaluate how limited our time is on earth.
- B. We need embrace intensity of God's wrath aroused by our sinfulness in our limited time on earth.
- C. As a result of evaluating our limited on earth, and the wrath God due to our sinfulness, we need to present to God a heart of wisdom- developing our minds, wills and affections in the skill of living according to the order of God in all things.

Key Point: We need to recognize the limitedness of our days, the intensity of God's wrath aroused by our sinfulness and live the rest of our lives under the headship of God, the fear of God and order of God in all aspects of life.