

Psalm 90:6-12, Part II

Just after Moses, the man of GOD, reminds us of our frailty and of GOD's eternity; we are also reminded that mortality is not accidental. Men are prone to think of death as no more than a debt owed to nature. Death is a debt to the Justice of GOD and a result of the curse of the Fall. [Romans 5:12 NASB] **12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned** — Our mortality is not accidental, but sin has provoked the LORD GOD to anger, and therefore we die. All of creation is subjected to death and corruption. [Romans 8:20 NASB] **20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope** I dare not leave us here, but state this Truth as the Scriptures teach that we look to Him in hope.

Particularly, as we read this portion, let us be cautioned that this Psalm has special application to Israel in the wilderness and we must not fail to see it in that light as well as remember the higher ground upon which believers now stand. Their lives (Israel in the wilderness) were cut short by justice for their rebellion. [Numbers 14:27-33 NASB] **27 "How long [shall I bear] with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. 28 "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; 29 your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. 30 'Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. 31 'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. 32 'But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. 33 'Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer [for] your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.** These people lived knowing they were doomed by their murmuring and rebellion against GOD. We can see the full meaning of this Psalm as applied to Israel in the wilderness; that their **days have declined in His fury**. The LORD gave them to know His judgement by the acknowledgement of having been **consumed by His anger**, and being **dismayed by His wrath**. These are not casual statements, but show the seriousness of offending GOD. And we are not to regard them casually as they serve to warn us. Just here is where we need to remember the higher ground in which we as believers now stand – in Christ. We can see this is true of

us in measure, but not altogether. We share with the Israelites in the wilderness the Truth that we too are passing as a result of **“because all sinned”**. Man apart from Christ, or those not in Christ share the same malady. It is here we may aptly compare Israel in the wilderness to those who are not in Christ. [Romans 3:10-12 NASB] **10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."** For those in Christ eternity and life are “seen” with eyes given to see in light of the Gospel – in light of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, that death is no more a judicial execution. This is the “higher ground” spoken of for the follower of Christ. Those in Christ no longer share in the anger and wrath of death. It is His Love and Mercy that attends the believer’s way to Glory by the way of the tomb; not just our death, but by His – He has conquered death and the grave! This is a wonderful aspect of His Glorious Grace. We as believers are privileged far beyond those of whom it was written **“your corpses will fall in the wilderness”**. Believers may certainly learn and draw much from this Psalm. However, as believers we are not a people that has been condemned under this judicial sentence of condemnation; we are a people in Christ. [1 Peter 2:9 NASB] **9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR [God's] OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** So, although we may learn much from this part of the Psalm, we ought not to misapply it to those in Christ, as those beloved of the LORD. GOD had sworn that this people (Israel in the wilderness) would never enter His rest. By His Grace and making us to be in Him; He has declared: [Matthew 11:28-29 NASB] **28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

But, when the soul of a believer is under the Holy Spirit wrought conviction of sin the words of this Psalm is most suitable to that case. This Psalm will then serve to warn us that truly no fire consumes like GOD’s righteous anger, and no anguish troubles the heart like His wrath. It is a great Mercy of GOD to be troubled when we sin. With sin comes guilt in which Jesus delivers His people from both. [1 John 1:9 NASB] **9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** This magnifies and shows the Glory of Christ

being our Substitute and bearing the wrath that we so rightly deserve. This magnifies His Glorious Grace.

Because all that is true in verses one through eleven – we are presented with a “so” in verse twelve. This is where we may draw a marvelous application from this Psalm. Here we have a plea for the LORD to teach us to number our days, and why? So that he may present to Him a heart of wisdom. The only way a man may present this heart of wisdom is by the LORD’s teaching. As we have seen in this Psalm our time is short and that **“soon it is gone and we fly away”**. We have but a short time allotted to us that will either manifest that we are “of Him” or “of the world”. The thoughts we think and the way we spend our time will prove one or the other. Only a heart that understands, by His Mercy and Grace, the fear that is due Him will consider such. We are not to count our days as if we know how many we will have, but to know that they are but few. We should consider often how short our time is so that we not spend it on things that are passing, but on things eternal. LORD, teach us to number our days that we are not slack in seeking Christ, the Wisdom of GOD, fear of the LORD, and that we walk by faith and not by sight. As the Word proclaims that which we just read in Matthew 11:29; the only way man may find rest for his soul is to learn from Him. Help us LORD that our time is spent wisely and that we learn from You.

Amen