

Bible Study on Psalm 90 – Leader Notes

1. Verse 1 – dwelling = refuge

In contrast to the temporary and uncertain nature of human life, God is a refuge for all generations. He is the One to go to for security, for He is before creation and will be for eternity (cf Heb 13:8). (TLSB)

Church = Nave = Boat

2. Verse 2 – *earth and world* – Repetition emphasizes that the everlasting God made all things. (TLSB)

3. Death became inevitable with the first sin in Eden. Look up Gen. 2:17 and Gen. 3:19. As punishment for the first sin in Eden, death now runs through the whole human race, indeed, the whole creation.

The focus in this psalm, however, is not so much on death, but on the shortness of life and, in vv 7–11, the difficulties of life under this divine sentence. (TLSB)

Verse 3 – It is said of human kind in general that it dies and returns in such a manner that while some die others always come to take their place. Some go, others come. (Abby and Janice)

Verse 5 – The Hebrew word for “sweep” signifies flood, inundation. The meaning is not, that men sink away into the sleep of death, but rather that time sweeps them away like a flood. Suddenly God causes them to be snatched away. (Stoeckhardt)

Verse 6 - This flower blooms only for the length of a day. When evening comes, then the grass with its flower is mowed down and withers. So is man. He is born into the world, blooms and flourishes for a short period, and unfolds for a short time her power and beauty. (Didn't he used to be)

4. Here God's eternity is contrasted with man's frailty. Hebrews 13:8

5. A day seems very short to us. It is nothing. A thousand years to Him are like the memory of that short yesterday. There simply is no time with God. (Stoeckhardt)
6. At night one sleeps, and the whole night seems short to the sleeper. A watch in the night is much shorter than a whole night. **These would last respectively from sunset to 10 P.M.; from 10 P.M. to 2 A.M.; and from 2 A.M. to sunrise.** It is like a fragment of something of which there is no consciousness. This is what a thousand years seems like to God. God is not affected by time. He is eternal, above time. (Stoeckhardt)
7. Death is a judgment of divine wrath. God wants men to so look upon death. (Gen. 3:17-19) (Stoeckhardt)

This is the confession of the congregation. The real cause of death is hidden to the world. It is unaware that man's sin has brought death about, that sin is such a terrible thing. Only the congregation realizes and confesses this, and submits to the judgment of God's wrath. (Stoeckhardt)

Verse 11 – *fear that is due you*. It is a conventional phrase equivalent to “true religion.” “Fear” in this phrase has the sense of reverential trust in God that includes commitment to his revealed will (word). (CSB)

8. None accept Caleb and Joshua would go into Promised Land.
9. Pride drives us to selfish actions.
10. TV commercial and saving money – “enough to spoil our grandchildren and ourselves.”
 - a. Wealth
 - b. Places of honor
 - c. luxuries and pleasures

11. Tee Shirt – The man with the most toys wins. The man with the most toys still dies.

How much will you be missed? Put your hand in a bucket of water and then pull it out again. The hole that is left is how much you will be missed.

To acquire this costs “toil,” much hard work and exertion of body and mind. There is no lasting treasure, no really satisfying pleasure in what man toils for and acquires. Leave it to others – Solomon

12. This request for wisdom leads to a series of petitions, beginning with a (a) true understanding of human life, (b) that we realize how few are the days we actually have and (c) how we need to turn to God for security and refuge. (TLSB)

13. The unknown... Stan ... be in control.

14. It like trusting that a loving Father will be there to receive us. Somewhat like the exercise of falling backwards and trusting that the other person will catch us. – Ps. 23 and shadow

15. Verse 13 God is to have pity on His people and change their sad lot. (Stoeckhardt) – Kryie = King riding by.

Verse 14 The congregation implores God for His mercy and grace, which blots out their sin and appeases His wrath. “Morning” here indicates the time of salvation. His servants can again praise Him and be glad all the days of their life, even unto death. (Stoeckhardt)

Verse 15 The Church is placed into the midst of the troubles of this world, implores God, and not only for His grace, but also for the seasons of refreshment and joy after days of suffering and sorrow. When the Church prays then God will hear this prayer and grant the members of the Church relief filling their heart with gladness. The Church should ever remember that is has a gracious God. After days of distress, God will bring days of joy. He provides for His own many good days, that they might enjoy their life. (Stoeckhardt)

Verses 16-17 God preserves His favor to the congregation.

- (a) God has not only favored His congregation in the past, but He will continue His favor in such a way.
- (b) He will establish the church's work.
- (c) God Himself has a work here on earth.
- (d) The servants of God have been given this particular work.
- (e) This God-assigned work has the object to promote the work of the kingdom of God on earth.
- (f) God performs His work on earth through the hands of His servants.
- (g) The congregation prays for this with confidence that its prayer is heard.
- (h) Even though death reigns on earth and one generation after another perishes, God's work goes on through time.
- (i) This work of the congregation never comes to a halt so long as this world endures.

See Isaiah 55:11