

Moses Last Prayer

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Moses' closing supplication is a prayer:
 - 1. Of benediction to the Lord,
 - 2. Of respect for the brevity of life,
 - 3. Of legacy to the living.
- B. Psalm 90
 - 1. The headings to these Psalms are ancient; it reads: "A prayer of Moses, the man of God." It may be the oldest Psalm in the Bible.
 - a. Moses wrote several songs - Deut. 31:19
 - 2. This prayer appears to have been composed during the wilderness wanderings, after Kadesh Barnea where the ten spies brought an evil report and God's wrath upon the nation of Israel.
 - 3. This prayer of Moses appears to be a closing prayer uttered at Aaron or Miriam's funeral, or at the end of a worship assembly, or at the end of the wilderness wanderings.
 - 4. It would be appropriate to use today when dismissing a prayer service or conducting a memorial service.
- C. It is a unique Psalm.
 - 1. Four parts:
 - a. Vss 1 - 2 declare God has always been alive and always will be.
 - b. Vss 3 - 6 teach that people will not always be alive. Life is short.
 - c. Vss 7 - 11 explain that people have not obeyed God's will.
 - d. Vss 12 - 17 appeal to God for kindness.
 - 2. There are three Hebrew words for God: Lord, LORD, and God.
 - a. In verses 1 and 17 is the word "Lord," meaning "master," someone with authority. It translates the Hebrew word "Adonai."
 - b. In verse 13 is LORD, with four capital letters, translating as "Yahweh" or Jehovah, meaning I AM. Declares that God is always alive.
 - c. In verses 2 and 17 is the word "God" translated from "Elohim," a plural word meaning "All Powerful Rulers with all authority."

I. OF BENEDICTION TO THE LORD

- A. Psalm 90:1-2
 - 1. The word "benediction" literally means to speak well of someone.
 - 2. Moses is speaking well of the Lord, Adonai, as the dwelling place of His people, as the One who Exists.
 - 3. God is the sanctuary for His people. What does this mean?
 - 4. God is the only permanent Being in this impermanent universe. God's people dwell in Him. Therefore, dwelling in God is the only permanent place we have in this temporary world.
 - 5. God preexists all things, transcends all things, and envelops all things.
 - a. 1Peter 4:19; Psalm 51:9-11, 84:11

II. OF RESPECT FOR THE BREVITY OF LIFE

A. Psalm 90:3-11

1. Verse 4 teaches that God isn't limited by time.
2. Verses 5-6, 10 teach us that by comparison man's days are limited.
 - a. James 4:13-15
3. Moses acknowledges a relationship between sin and death.
4. Verses 3, 7-9, 11 - Moses reveals death as the expression of God's anger for sin - Num. 26:65; Rom. 5:12
5. God does not remain angry and has changed death - Psalm 116:15

III. OF LEGACY TO THE LIVING

A. Psalm 90:12-17

1. A lesson to learn - verse 12 - "Teach us to number our days."
 - a. Brevity of life - Psalm 39:4-5
 - b. Value of life - Eph. 5:15-17
 - c. Wisdom for life - Prov. 3:13-18
2. A Lord to love - verses 13-14
 - a. Repentance is the first expression of love sinners make to God.
 - 1) Psalm 103:8-18
 - b. Contentment with God, His word, and what He has given is the second expression of love penitent sinners make to God.
 - 1) Phil. 4:4, 11
3. A life to live - verses 15-17
 - a. A happy life - John 16:20
 - b. A learning life - Psalm 77:12
 - c. A stable life - Prov. 4:25-27

Conclusion:

- A. "I am content to fill a little space if God be glorified." (Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley)
- B. "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." (John Piper)
- C. The Bible doesn't say be satisfied to the point where you don't want change, but be satisfied for now until God brings about the change.
- D. May this be the last words of the last prayer we offer in this life - Psalm 90:13-14 - "Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy."