

PRAYING PSALM 90

“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations” (Psalm 90:1).

This is a prayer of Moses to ask God for mercy on frail people living in sin-cursed world. The song seems to have been written as the older generation of Israelites were dying in the wilderness (Numbers 14). 1. PRAISE FOR GOD’S ETERNALITY (1-2). God is our eternal refuge. From everlasting to everlasting You are God. 2. PROCLAMATION OF MAN’S FRAILTY (3-12). He returns to destruction (death). Life is temporary. Life is brief. Life is cut off, and the spirit leaves the body. God is angry because of sins. God’s wrath must be satisfied. 3. PLEA FOR GOD’S MERCY (13-17). God’s mercy removes His wrath. Be merciful according to the days you have afflicted us.

Man was created to live eternally in innocence. When Adam and Eve chose the knowledge of evil over innocence everything changed. God is still the refuge for those who want Him. The Israelites said they did, and resisted God for forty years in the wilderness. The frailty of man was manifested in the desert wanderings. Furthermore, the wrath of God was manifested. But God is more than wrath; He is merciful. That is His crowning attribute. As He gave Israel another chance in the Sinai desert, He will give you another chance for the sins you have committed as a Christian. Mercy removes God’s wrath toward you when you come to faith in Christ’s death for your sins. Moses’ plea for the nation was that God would be merciful according to the days He had afflicted Israel. God will be merciful to you, not because you deserve it, but because Christ has bought you with His own blood. If you have failed miserably as a believer, repent and cast yourself on the mercy of God. His mercy endures forever.