

PSALM NINETY

Psalm ninety is a prayer that Moses uttered, registered in the pages of psalms. It is a review of his experiences in the desert, as the leader of the nation of Israel on their route to the Promised Land. In this psalm, he acknowledges God as the eternal God, the Creator, the sovereign and powerful God; man's brevity of life and his fallen nature. Moses, a man of God, whom He considered humble and worth of respect, a man to whom God spoke face to face and defended against those who rebelled against him as in the case of Moses' brother Aaron and sister, Miriam. In Numbers 12: 5-9 reads: When the Lord came down to deal with them, He said, Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision and speak to him in a dream. But not so with My servant Moses; he is entrusted and faithful in all My house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them and He departed. There has never been a man on the face of this earth who has had such deep relationship with God. Even, in his death, it was God who buried him. Perhaps angels witnessed Moses' funeral.

Moses expresses this beautiful prayer from his heart with honest desire to acquire a heart of wisdom. He addresses the Psalm to the Lord, saying, Lord, You have been our dwelling place and our refuge in all generations (verse 1). When Moses shines the light on the fact of whom God is, man, in his natural estate, is nothing but dust, lasting as long as a weed of the field. He can never be compared to God in his sinful condition, although created in the image of God. Moses dealt with Israel for forty years. He came to see his people for what they were: rebellious and of hardened heart. He suffered much under their scrutiny of criticism. As an intercessor, he prayed for them in times when God was angry and ready to give up on those people. In this psalm, he writes, Who knows the power of Your anger? And Your wrath, who connects it with the reverent and worshipful fear that is due You? (verse 11). We see His power displayed in the early years of Israel's pilgrimage, when God descended to Mount Sinai to covenant with them; Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, for He descended upon it in fire; its smoke ascended like that of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (Exodus 19:18). The writer to the Hebrews describes how Moses felt at that time when God descended to Mount Sinai saying, In fact, so awful and terrifying was the sight that Moses said, I am terrified (Heb. 12:21).

Psalm 90, more than any other psalm, (in my opinion), truly testifies the reality of God as a result of Moses have physically experienced Him. When I read this psalm, I sense the deep relationship between God and Moses. Defending Moses, God told Aaron and his sister, Miriam, **"I speak to Moses mouth to mouth and he beholds the form of the Lord."** Twice, He spent forty days and forty nights on the mountain in the presence of God. His death happened in the presence of the Lord and He buried him there. He heard the voice of the Lord audibly and not in a dream or vision. So, when Moses wrote this psalm, he was reliving those days in the desert with its challenges and victories. He was well acquainted with God's wrath and anger in His judgment toward Israel. So, his prayer was one of intercession for them when he said, *Who*

knows the power of Your anger and Your wrath? So teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom; Turn, O Lord [from Your fierce anger]! How long-? Revoke Your sentence and be compassionate and at ease toward Your servants. O satisfy us with Your mercy and loving-kindness in the morning, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days; make us glad in proportion to the days in which You have afflicted us and to the years in which we have suffered evil; let Your work be revealed to Your servants and Your majesty to their children; and let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord our God be upon us; confirm and establish the work of our hands- Yes, the work of our hands, confirm and establish it (Ps. 90:11-17).

This prayer of intercession with definite purpose brought to God, can be ours as we intercede for us and for others. Firstly, Moses recognizes the power of God in His wrath. No one can interfere with His judgments. Only by having wisdom, can we realize how limited we are when under God's judgments. A heart of wisdom, is a heart that is humble before God; a heart of wisdom is a heart that can perceive and understand the sovereignty of God over it and easily submit to His will. A heart of wisdom is a heart that compels the soul- mind, will and emotion to obey the Lord. Moses' prayer asking God to confirm the works of our hands, speaks of success in all we do; may our needs be supplied through our daily efforts from morning till evening. He emphasizes the request by repeating it, **Confirm**, Lord, and **establish** the work of our hands, meaning, guarantee our work and substantiate our success in whatever we do to provide for our daily needs. As David prayed, But for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord. At an acceptable and opportune time O God, in the multitude of Your mercy and the abundance of Your loving-kindness hear me, and in the truth and faithfulness of our salvation answer me (Psalm 69:13) Moses stood firmly in his faith that God, the provider, was going to do what he asked, as He had done in the past. When God told him that He was going to send an angel to go with them, Moses then said, "If Your presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here. The Lord then confirmed to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness and mercy in My sight and I know you personally and by name (Exodus 33: 17). This prayer, was as a result of Moses interceding for the people, who had sinned against God in the way of unfaithfulness right after God had covenanted with them on Mount Sinai. The covenant at Mount Sinai between God and the Israelites was then broken. Moses tried to re-establish it when interceding for them. He was even willing to have God blot his name out of God's book, if He was not going to forgive the people (Exodus 32:32). Imagine, having your name blot out of God's book for the sake of a sinful people, deserving the punishment! Moses heart was compassionate and forgiving. It reflected the heart of God in the person of YAHSHUA, when He suffered the penalty due us. Moses was a truly humble man before God and man.

"Show me Your glory," Moses asked God. The glory of the past when God performed wonders in his sight before leaving Egypt and at the time when God dried the Red Sea for them to pass through, when a cloud guided Israel by day and a pillar of fire by night. Moses needed to experience it once again by having God to continue going with them to the Promised Land. The glory of God, when His manifestation happens in our life through His goodness, it connects us to Him in a personal way. We declare that God is good all the time, but we do not have the

understanding that His glory rests on His goodness. God answered Moses's request by saying, I will make all My goodness pass before you and I will proclaim My name...(Exodus 33:19a). God's goodness is His name. Declaring that God is good is of great importance. There is significance beyond our perceiving, when we make the declaration. When we say, God is good, we are saying, God is faithful, He is trueful, He is compassionate, He is loving; He is what He says He is "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

We all have the need to experience the goodness of God, when going through the valleys of life, before we reach the Promised Land. When we do not feel His presence going with us at times, it does not interpret the truth. Our feeling should not convey that He is unfaithful. But as Moses did, we should plead God: "Show me Your glory" O God; "confirm and establish the work of our hands;" give us a heart of wisdom to understand that we are but dust and how we must depend on You as our source of life and strength.