

PSALM 90

THE FRAILTY OF MAN

A Man who watched a nation die...

THE AUTHOR

Name

Moses, so named because his adoptive mother drew him from the waters of the Nile.

Dates

1440 BC

Family

A child of Israel, raised by Egyptian nobility.

History

The great giver of the Law
The leader of God's people from Egypt to the promised land.
Buried by God

Place of work

Egypt, the Sinai Desert

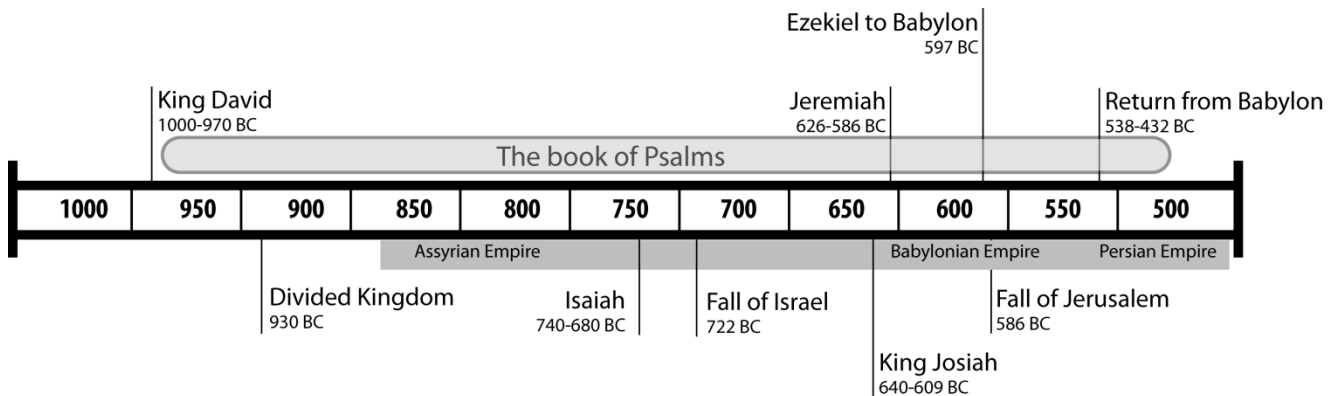
THE POETRY

Notice the poetic structure of the psalm. Two stanzas descriptive of the human condition under God's aggrieved anger (v 3-6, 7-10) are framed by two couplets (v 1-2, 11-12) that, by their implicit contrasts, highlight the major polarities over which the intervening stanzas brood: 1. The Lord, who has been our dwelling place, has shown us the power of his wrath. 2. God is the everlasting one while we must come to terms with the small number of our days.

These reflections lead to the prayer with which the psalm concludes. (v 13-17).

THE BOOK

The Psalter, or book of Psalms, is a collection of the songs of the people of Israel written over a period of centuries, from the time of Moses until after the return from Babylon. There are 150 psalms in the book that cover nearly every aspect of Christian life and worship. This book is especially suited to be used in your personal devotional life.



Read Psalm 90:1-2

1. How is God our “dwelling place?”
2. Why does Moses begin his psalm about the frailty of man with a statement about the eternal nature of God?
3. Agree or Disagree? According to verse 3, and other passages such as Ecclesiastes 12:7 “**The dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it,**” the practice of cremation is wrong.

Read Psalm 90:3-11

4. Agree or Disagree? The point of verse four is that time flies in heaven.
5. Agree or Disagree? Verses 3 and 5 emphasize God’s role as the ender of life; euthanasia is always wrong.

Read Psalm 90:12-17

6. How do we number our days aright?
7. How will that lead us to gain a heart of wisdom?
8. After all that Moses has said, why would anyone “sing for joy and be glad all our days?” (Verse 14)
9. Through the whole psalm Moses points to the short-lived nature of man. What work of our hands will be enduring, though we are so transitory? (Verse 17)