

He is!

An Expository Exploration of the Attributes of God

Sermon 8: He is Eternal

Psalm 90

February 23, 2020

Scripture Reading: Psalm 90

Opening Illustration: Time flies. It seems like we blink our eyes and suddenly a week has gone by, or a year, or a life. The sad thing is that we really don't take the time to realize that our life is blazing past us until we have some sort of loss or some sort of milestone. When our kids go off to Kindergarten, we say, "It seems like just yesterday..." When our kids get married, we wonder, "What happened to my baby?" When we lose loved ones, we ask ourselves, "Why did I leave this unsaid or that undone? I just ran out of time." Time, as it were, is not as much like sand through an hourglass, as it is more like sand slipping through our fingers.

Some verses to consider:

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Job 7:7 "Remember that my life is *but* breath..."

I. Introduction/Review

A. Review

B. God is Eternal

1. What is What does this mean?

a) Definition: A transcendence of time; without beginning or end, it is also qualitatively superior to the temporal.

b) **Expanded definition:** God's eternity is His perfect transcendence over any limitations of time.

c) What does this mean to us?

(1) God is not limited by time in the sense that He is ever rushed. He never leaves anything undone because He runs out of time.

(2) God does not deteriorate with time. He is as much gloriously God as He was 10 million years ago. 10 million years from now, He will not be diminished in the least from what He is now.

See **Psalm 90:2**

(3) This means that God is infinitely greater than we are.

Quote: In an age which was readier than our own to reflect on mortality and judgment, this psalm was an appointed reading (with 1 Cor. 15) at the burial of the dead: a rehearsal of the facts of death and life which, if it was harsh at such a moment, wounded to heal.¹

II. The Eternity of God—*God is gloriously timeless* (vv. 1-2)

A. He is our security in all generations.

1. What does it mean that God has been Israel's "dwelling place"?

a) Some mss seems to have "refuge" here.

b) Quote: Either would be true, but 'dwelling place' is specially relevant to this psalm's emphasis on human rootlessness, and is a metaphor found also in the Blessing of Moses: 'the eternal God is your dwelling place' (Deut. 33:27). The personal prayer of 71:3 (AV,

¹ Derek Kidner, [*Psalms 73–150: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 16, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975), 359.

not RSV) makes it a truth to live by: 'Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort.' (Kidner, 359)

2. What does it mean that God has been Israel's dwelling place "in every generation"?

B. He is steadier than the mountains and the world.

1. Notice how Moses (the Psalmist here) describes the mountains.

- a) The mountains were born.
- b) The world was birthed by God.

2. What was this meant to communicate?

- a) Obviously, this is metaphorical. God did not LITERALLY give birth to the world.
- b) Therefore, this means that even things that seem like they are unmovable and always there have a beginning and therefore pale in comparison to the great eternity of God.

3. Why is this important and spiritually powerful?

- a) Because we tend to think that certain things are unchangeable. They will "always be this way." There is only one uncreated (and therefore eternal and unchangeable) thing in the Universe. He is God.

C. He is more stable than all creation.

1. From everlasting—There was never a start date or a birth date for You.

2. To everlasting—There will never be an end date for You.

3. You ARE God!

- a) God is what He is and He is always what He is and He will always be what He is!

(1) **Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

III. The Expiration of Life—*People are shockingly temporary (vv. 3-12)*

A. We are returning to dust. (vv. 3-6)

1. God is even in control of this. Notice: YOU turn man back into dust.

- a) Compare v. 5—You have swept them away.

2. Everyone will return to dust. Everyone will die.

- a) **Hebrews 9:27** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

3. Our entire lifetime is a drop in the bucket to God.

- a) I mean this in terms of time, not in terms of importance.
- b) This means that our entire life, when compared with His eternity, is put in its proper perspective. There is nothing that we can experience that God is somehow inexperienced with or ill-equipped to handle.

B. We are accountable for our deeds. (vv. 7-9)

1. Why put this here?

- a) I would suggest to you that this is simply the reasonable response to any character trait of God. What He is exposes what we are, and what we are (especially compared to Him) is not flattering.

2. What does this lead us to?

- a) This demands and produces humility.
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- C. We must number our days. (vv. 10-12)
 - 1. What's the problem?
 - a) We live 70-80 years and we think we are wise. God is eternal. He is wise.
 - 2. What does this mean?
 - a) This cannot simply mean to keep track of our days. What good would that do?
 - b) This must mean that we are called to "count our days" by "making our days count."
 - c) This must mean that we are to be wise stewards of our days, and live with an eye toward the greatness and the beauty of God.
 - (1) Notice the second half of the verse: "...That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
 - 3. How is this different than saying, "our days are numbered"?

IV. The Expectation of Blessing—*God is Wonderfully Trustworthy!* (vv. 13-17)

- A. He will be sorry for us (v. 13).
 - 1. God, in His grace, feels for us even when we are suffering because of our own stupidity.
 - a) **Psalm 51:3-4** For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.
- B. He will spare us.
 - 1. I am reading between the lines a little bit here, but I think this is a necessary point to make.
 - 2. He will not simply feel bad because of our misery, He will remedy it.
- C. He will satisfy us (vv. 14-17).
 - 1. Notice the emotional language here:
 - a) Satisfy us! (v. 14)
 - b) Make us glad! (v. 15)
 - c) Let your work appear (v. 16)
 - (1) Work=majesty (synonymous parallelism)
 - d) Let Your favor be upon us (v. 17a)
 - 2. Notice that Moses cries out not only for blessing, but for effectiveness in his work. (v. 17b)

V. Conclusions—What does this call us to?

- A. We must come to grips with the brevity of life and the uncertainty of tomorrow.
 - 1. James 4:13-16
 - 2. Compare the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21
 - 3. ****Gospel invitation****
 - a) I am not trying to scare you into belief.
 - b) Instead, I am simply warning you that you may have 70 years or if you are really strong 80 years. On the other hand, you may not. All you really have is now.
- B. We must remind ourselves that even when our circumstances seem unchangeable and insurmountable, that God transcends all limitations of time.
- C. We must make it our ambition to live with an eye toward God's majesty in His transcendence over time.
- D. We must make it our hope to rely on God's grace during our times of struggle.

Benediction verse-- ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

O God, our Help in Ages Past

By Isaac Watts

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
4. Thy Word commands our flesh to dust,
"Return, ye sons of men":
All nations rose from earth at first,
And turn to earth again.
5. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
6. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their lives and cares,
Are carried downwards by the flood,
And lost in foll'wing years.
7. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
8. Like flow'ry fields the nations stand
Pleased with the morning light;
The flow'rs beneath the mower's hand
Lie with'ring ere 'tis night.
9. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.