

w/b 11th November 2018

THEME: REMEMBERING OUR MORTALITY - LIFE APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION: In a society that is in virtual denial about death, Remembrance Week and Remembrance Sunday breaks that trend to remember those who have fallen in various conflicts. This gives us opportunity to reflect on issues like sacrifice, wasteful loss of life, the sadness of lives cut short and the tragedy of war in general. But it also gives us a chance to reflect on our own mortality. The bible does not shy away from this painful subject and in Psalm 90, no less a man than Moses thinks about man's very limited role in the grand scheme of things.

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- ¹ *Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.*
- ² *Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
- ³ *You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."*
- ⁴ *A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.*
- ⁵ *Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:*
- ⁶ *In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.*
- ⁷ *We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.*
- ⁸ *You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.*
- ⁹ *All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.*
- ¹⁰ *Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.*
- ¹¹ *If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.*

*12 Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

*13 Relent, LORD! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.*

*14 Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.*

*15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.*

*16 May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendour to their children.*

*17 May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.*

LAUNCH

- What sort of emotions and feelings come to mind when you think about death in general and your death in particular

DISCOVERY

- What aspects of God do we learn about from this passage?
- What do we learn about mankind from this passage?
- Do you agree with Moses's assessment of God & man? Why or why not?

UNDERSTANDING

- How does the psalmist describe God's anger and its effects on our lives? Should he be angry with us?
- In verse 12 a key piece of advice is that we should 'number our days in order to gain a heart of wisdom'. What does this process look like in practice and why is it useful?
- Luke 12 16-21 is a good example of a man who was not very good at numbering his days. What do we learn from this story?
- In the remaining years that are left to you, what sorts of things should you be prioritising?
- Verses 13-17 provide in a sense the light at the end of the tunnel. What hope do we get from these verses? How does the advent of Christ increase that hope still more?
- On balance this Psalm provides more hope than despair. Do you agree? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

- Spend time praying for one another that in the knowledge of our finite period here on earth we may use our time wisely and to the glory of God.

Some questions adapted Eugene Peterson/ studies in the Psalms/ Lifebuilder