

### **Psalm 90 should be memorised by us all!**

Psalm 90 is a marvellous Psalm that should be memorised by all, and is a fitting Psalm to read as we begin the New Year. The Psalm is a prayer of Moses and seems so fitting for the occasion.

Psalm 90 speaks of the swift passing of time in our lives in contrast to the unchangeable and everlasting Being of God. It is a reminder that only as we seek forgiveness and mercy from God is there any hope for escape from the destructive influences that sin has brought upon us.

Our lives do not end in death by mere accident; neither are aging and dying natural processes as many self-made authorities on death and dying would have us believe, nor are they forms of maturity which we must accept stoically as inevitable. Instead, they are unnatural intrusions resulting from the curse of God upon man because of his sinful rebellion against God.

That accounts for the fact our life span has been shortened from the 930 years at which Adam died to a mere 70 years, or 80 if we are strong, and, if we go beyond that, the best of those years are still labour and sorrow, "*For life quickly passes, and we fly away.*" "*We finish our years like a sigh,*" that is, a shameful tale of sin and rebellion against God. No wonder we're finally consumed by His wrath and are like grass that in the evening withers and dries up!

The Psalmist's purpose, however, is not to lead us to despair. Rather, it is to direct us away from our sinfulness and helplessness to the mercy and help which our God has provided despite our rebellion against Him. It is to teach us "*to count our days correctly*" and to begin early in our lives to realise the need for that grace which only God can supply and which He has supplied by redeeming us from sin through His own dear Son Jesus Christ.

Fortunate indeed are those who early in life learn to satisfy their every need in Him and so to spend a life here on earth, whether it be short or long, enjoying God's forgiveness, a good conscience, and then also a life that is lived to the glory of God for the purpose for which it was created. How tragic that so many never learn to know God's forgiving mercy in their childhood and youth, also that so many who did turn away again and attempt to satisfy their spiritual needs at the empty troughs of this evil world, only to die as impoverished, hopeless victims of Satan.

May we all make as our prayer every day of our lives, "*Satisfy us in the morning with Your mercy, that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days!*"