



BRIDGES

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Teach Us To Number Our days

The only Psalm that records Moses as the author is Psalm 90. We are not told when Moses wrote this Psalm, but I like to think it was soon after the Lord told Moses to climb up to the top of Mt. Nebo, and there die. Moses, from the top of Mt. Nebo, will see the promised land but he will not enter it (Deuteronomy 32:48-52). I think this fits Psalm 90 because the three things that Moses describes about the human condition are three

things that I am sure he wrestled with on that day he stood atop Mt. Nebo.

- **Moses lamented to God that life is short.**

“You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man! (Psalm 90:3)” He sees that God is eternal and everlasting, we are not. Despite being 120 years old, It is not hard to imagine Moses thinking, I have more years to live.

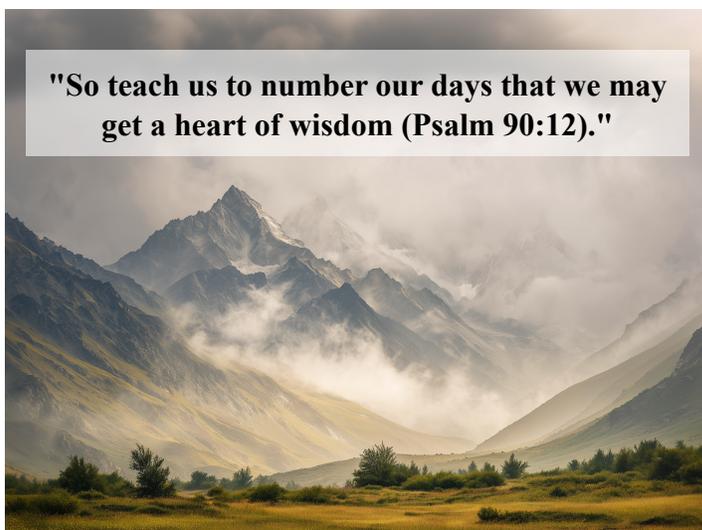
- **Moses cried out to God that every sin man commits is judged by Him, even secret sins.**

“You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence (Psalm 90:8)”. It is not hard to imagine Moses thinking this when he was told he cannot cross over because of the sin he committed when he struck the rock with the staff.

- **Moses wrestled with the reality that what we do does not last, the work of our hands is ultimately meaningless.** This is what I understand when he says in verse 9, “...we bring our years to an end like a sigh.” Like a sigh, what one does is soon forgotten by those who remain. It is not hard for me to imagine Moses thinking atop Mt. Nebo if the people of Israel will be faithful once he is gone.

These deep struggles of Moses are ones we all share. Life is short—people we love leave us too soon. Walking faithfully with the Lord can feel weighty at times, not because it's a burden, but because sin carries real consequences. And I know I'm not alone in wondering if what I do has eternal meaning

Moses asks us not to ignore these deep feelings and thoughts that anchor us in life, but to live into them according to the deep wisdom of God. He instructs, “**So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).**” What does that mean? How do we do that? How do we live with wisdom according to the days that the Lord has given to us? Moses answers this question is the prayer that follows (Psalm 90:13-17). He says



1. Cry out to God for mercy (vs 13). Yes, sin may define our condition, but mercy defines God's. So, cry out to Him. Seek the forgiveness that he gives.

2. Find contentment and satisfaction in His Steadfast Love (vs 14). It is His steadfast love that quiets the longing of our hearts, so find the peace your soul longs for in Him.

3. Trust the Lord to turn your hurt and pain into Joy (15). Moses does not ask God to remove his suffering, but to give him a joy that is

greater.

4. Meaningful work begins by joining God in His work (16). Only God's work lasts for eternity, so if you want what you do to have lasting impact and meaning, align yourself with what He is doing.

5. What one does has meaning when done to the glory of God (17). When we seek His favor on our work and ask Him to establish it, even our ordinary days carry eternal weight.

What amazing wisdom from the ancient past—wisdom that remains fresh and vital for us today. It is a wisdom I pray for myself and for you as we begin this new year together. May the Lord number our days and give us hearts of wisdom.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Trent Eastman