

Weekly Devotion based on Psalm 90

Wednesday, 21st October 2020

[UCA Congregations: ALM, Drysdale, Lara, Portarlinton & St. Leonards]

Welcome

Opening Words

You are my hiding place; you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Bible Text: Psalm 90 – God’s Eternity & Human Frailty

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end^[c] like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span^[c] is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. ¹² So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

¹³ Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

Reflection



Living wisely within the frailty of human life – especially in times of crisis! HOW?

Psalm 90 is the only Psalm attributed to Moses in its superscription. A leader who intervened on behalf of his community in times of human crisis. A time when there was no monarchy or temple.

Psalm 90 is also described by biblical scholars as a community lament that opens with a description of God as an eternal Creator, who is a dwelling place for the people – a place of refuge.

It also describes the frailty and finiteness of human life and creation. The petition is therefore to accept and understand this true reality and live wisely before God and with others within the universe/cosmos.

God's response, to the petition for mercy and compassion and a renewed hope for living, is steadfast love.

Question for pondering?

- Reflect on your experiences of God's blessings and the challenges we face during the COVID19 crisis?
- How does your life experiences resonate with Psalm 90?

Prayer – TiS 47 *Our God, our help in ages past* (based on Psalm 90:1-6)

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure:
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is secure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
remain our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

Acknowledgement

- Psalm 90
- Google Image
- TiS 47 – O God our help.... Isaac Watt 1674-1748
- Church Classics CD Volume 3
- Prepared by Rev Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga & Rev Sani Vaeluaga