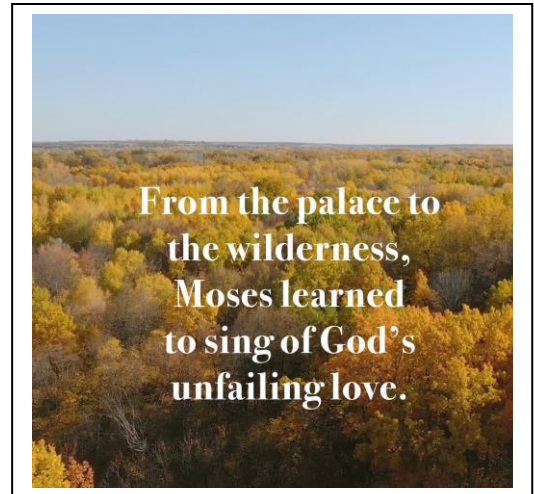


SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST 2022
PSALM 90 – THE SONG OF MOSES.

The story of Moses reads like a movie – which is probably why so many movies have been made about him. It's a rags to riches story.

Let's summarize the story of Moses:

- Born a Hebrew, hidden in a basket among the reeds of the Nile River, rescued by Pharaoh's daughter and became an Egyptian Prince.
- Educated, widely read, spoke multiple languages, understood history, geography, philosophy and military strategy.
- Killed an Egyptian when he was 40, had to flee for his life, ended up tending sheep in the deserts of Midian for another 40 years.
- God called to Moses from a bush which was on fire but did not burn and tells him to go and rescue His people from the Pharaoh.
- Moses says to God – no way, I know this guy, I grew up with him, but God says – I will be with you, so Moses relents and spends 90 days convincing the Pharaoh to emancipate his slave force.
- Pharaoh finally agrees after God hits them with a number of plagues, but Pharaoh then changes his mind and chases after the Israelites.
- God dried up the water of the red sea, the Israelites d crossed safely. He provided guidance, food and water



but the Israelites didn't stop complaining, and they made their own pagan idol. God punished them by keeping them wandering the desert for the next 40 years until that generation died.

- Moses continued as their shepherd, saviour, prophet, caregiver, liberator, nation-builder and intermediary between them and God. He cared, scolded and encouraged and over the 40 years he wrote the first 5 books of the Bible. 50% more material than any other biblical author.

After 40 years of writing, Moses writes one last page. And it is not about the commandments or the law. Moses' final writing is a song. We call it a *Psalm*. Some believe this song is the first of its kind forming the pattern for all the Psalms that follow.

After all that he's observed, experienced, seen of God and His people, Moses writes this Psalm, simply called "The Song of Moses." Wow, that's a lot isn't it. Moses' life had 3 sections – 40 years in each.

God showed Moses the way, in 3 sections.

God – the Everlasting Creator.

Moses begins by declaring that God has been the dwelling place for all generations. What is a dwelling place – it's where you live, your home. Moses is telling us that God has been our home ever since He created man and woman on

earth. God formed the earth first and then later brought out the land from the waters.

Moses is moving back in time affirming that before the creation of the earth itself – **God was**. Plato, the great Greek philosopher was the only one who recorded some concept of the timelessness of God. Those who believe in pagan gods acknowledge they all had a beginning. But here is a God who never begins, a timeless, endless God who is beyond and above His creation and beyond and above all the events of history.

God the Righteous Judge.

Moses did not try to deny God's judgement, instead he looked at the death his sin deserved and cried out for mercy and wisdom. Moses shared as he is facing his mortality and death. The greatest mistake we can make is to assume that we are invincible and trust in our own strength.

Wisdom grows best in our hearts when we know and embrace our weaknesses. For Moses, it took 40 years of chasing sheep in the wilderness before he acknowledged his weakness. He was crushed by decades of obscurity to become a man who was mighty in word and deed but also the humblest man on earth.

God the Wise and Merciful Lord

Moses' prayer does not begin with petitions, demanding God to work. Rather he first ponders who God is as creator and judge, then he is ready to seek God's mercy to get a heart of wisdom. Moses is reflecting on time in the light of God's eternity. When we count the shortness of our days in light of the length of God's eternity, it enables us to make the best use of our lives.

How do we make the best use of our lives? Here are some points.

- Aligning ourselves and our lives with God and seeking His mercy in our times of need. We must seek God first, instead of looking to governments, work, friends, material possession and money.
- Being satisfied by God day-by-day and seeking His promises and love every morning. Human nature dictates that we live to satisfy our longings. Where do you seek satisfaction? Moses stood in the wilderness with sheep for 40 years and then with the obstinate sheep of Israel for another 40 years. Where did he look – to God.
- Praying with confidence that whatever troubles we have now, they will be nothing compared to living with Jesus in His Kingdom. As Christians our troubles are often multiplied because the enemies of God are our enemies too. While we cannot guarantee material comfort for the afflictions we face, the resurrection of Jesus

promises that all who trust in Christ will be raised with Him eternally.

- Looking to the Lord and His works, instead of being self-centered. God does not always give us what we want – even when it is a good thing. Christianity is a belief system that calls us to die to our dreams and desires and live with the hope of Christ’s glory in our hearts.
- Giving praise to God in our successes and seeking His comfort in our failures. God manifests His goodness to all who take refuge in Him. When He permits us to accomplish our goals, we must acknowledge this as a gift of His gracious mercy, not something God owes us.