

## ‘Man – The Endangered Species’

We are like weeds that sprout in the morning, that grow and burst into bloom, then dry up and die in the evening:

### 1. The Author:

- The Hebrew text is clear indicating that this is a “prayer of Moses”:
- There are those who have tried to resist this but lack in any sufficient arguments:
- Moses (מֹשֶׁה) the prophet (Deut 18:15-22) was unique in that he knew the LORD ‘face to face’ (Deut 34:10-12):
- “Man of God” (אֱלֹהִים אִישׁ) is a technical expression used over 70x in the OT, always referring to one who spoke for God:
- **This psalm expresses man’s mortality in immortal words:**

### 1. The Author:

### 2. The Situation:

- No situation suits this psalm as clearly as the historical background of Moses and the people during the wearisome wilderness wandering and years of divine alienation (Numbers 14:34):
- It is a beautiful and moving psalm with frightening realism, facing our greatest insecurities and yet offering us a remedy and hope:

### 1. The Author:

### 2. The Situation:

### 3. The Revelation:

- This Psalm Flows from –
  - 1) Praise – God’s Eternality:
  - 2) Perception – Man’s Transitoriness:
  - 3) Plea – God’s Mercy:
- This Psalm Reveals to Us –
  - 1) The Wretched Shortness of Human Life:
  - 2) The Wonder of God’s Eternality:

### I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)

- A. *The Life of Man – ‘Generation After Generation’* (v. 1a)
  - B. *The Life of God – ‘From Everlasting To Everlasting’* (v. 1b)
- God’s eternity extends backward into infinity and forward into infinity:
    1. **From the Most Ancient Times Thinkable – From Everlasting (עוֹלָמֵי עוֹלָמֵי):**
    2. **To the Most Remote Future Time Imaginable – To Everlasting (עוֹלָמֵי עוֹלָמֵי):**
  - C. *The Fixed Address* (cf. v. 4a, b)
    - **It puts our world into its context...and our time-span into its sobering setting of eternity:**

### I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)

### II. The Plight of the Human Species (90:3-11)

- A. *Humanity Threatened by Impermanence* (vv. 3-6)
  1. **Stated** (vv. 3a, 5a)
  2. **Pictured** (vv. 5b-6)

### I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)

### II. The Plight of the Human Species (90:3-11)

- A. *Humanity Threatened by Impermanence* (vv. 3-6)
  - B. *Humanity Blighted by the Wrath of God* (vv. 7-11)
    1. **It is by the Agency of God that Humanity Suffers Transience** (vv. 3, 5a)
      - ‘You turn (שׁוּבָה 2<sup>nd</sup> person, masc., sing.) people back into dust,’ saying, “Go back into dust, human beings” (v. 3)
      - ‘You sweep (סָוֵא 2<sup>nd</sup> person, masc., sing.) men away in the sleep of death’ (v. 5)
- **Death is not a matter of man paying his debt to nature; God’s hand is in it:**

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  1. **It is by the Agency of God that Humanity Suffers Transience** (vv. 3, 5a)
    2. **It is by the Decree of God that Humanity Returns to Dust – It is Inescapable** (cf. Gen 3:19)
      - a) *Divine Anger* (v. 7a)
      - b) *Divine Indignation against Iniquities, Secret Sins* (vv. 7b-8)
      - c) *Divine Wrath* (vv. 9, 11)

### I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)

### II. The Plight of the Human Species (90:3-11)

- III. **The Preservation of the Human Species** (90:12-15)
    - A. *Take Up a Dwelling Place in Him* (v.1; vv. 12-17)
- There is a series of 6 petitions which come in this section:
    1. **By Prayer We Counter the Disintegrative Power of Sin:**
    2. **By Prayer We Come to God Whom We Have Offended:**
    3. **By Prayer We Take Up Our dwelling Place in Him:**

- I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)
- II. The Plight of the Human Species (90:3-11)
- III. The Preservation of the Human Species (90:12-15)
  - A. *Take Up a Dwelling Place in Him* (v.1; vv. 12-17)
  - B. *The Walls of the Eternal Dwelling in Him* (vv. 12, 13, 14, 15)
    - 1. Understanding (v. 12)
    - 2. Forgiveness (v. 13)
    - 3. Satisfaction and Stability (v. 14)
    - 4. Renewal (v. 15)
    - 5. Hopefulness (v. 16)
    - 6. Permanence (v. 17)

- I. The Panorama of Time and Eternity (90:1-2)
- II. The Plight of the Human Species (90:3-11)
- III. The Preservation of the Human Species (90:12-15)
- IV. The Plea for Significance (90:17)
  - > *Only God can give value, significance, or true meaning to life:*