

Psalm 90

The book of Psalms has 5 parts/books within it:

- Book 1: Psalm 1-Psalm 41
- Book 2: Psalm 42-Psalm 72
- Book 3: Psalm 73-Psalm 89
- Book 4: Psalm 90-Psalm 106
- Book 5: Psalm 107-150

The authors of the 150 psalms are as follows:

- David wrote 75 psalms
- Asaph wrote 12 psalms
- The Sons of Korah wrote 11 psalms
- Heman wrote 1 psalm
- Solomon wrote 2 psalms
- Moses wrote 1 psalm
- Ethan wrote 1 psalm, and
- Anonymous writers wrote the remaining 48 psalms

This was the only psalm written by Moses. All of the other writers lived in a time where much was written and known about God. Moses was the person who gathered all of the scrolls handed down since Adam, and transcribed Genesis; and from his own experiences in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Moses was not the first to encounter God; but he sort of re-discovered God.

Read Psalm 90:1-2: Moses stumbled upon the living God. Moses went from the top of the elite rulership to the lowest job in that society...as a shepherd. Shepherds were all considered to be thieves.

The eternal God introduces himself to a mere man. Moses was aware of the dire situation and slavery of his people in Egypt. He probably felt depressed that he was unable to do anything about it; though he tried. Moses had been rejected by his own people. They did not accept his lead. It was clear that Moses had no expectations of being able to help his people.

God is faithful to save us. He introduced himself to Adam directly. He had to re-introduce himself multiple times subsequently as mankind forgot about him and dismissed his relevance.

By the time that Moses came along; God was almost forgotten again. Perhaps the slavery encouraged some to reach out in prayers of desperation. The sons of Jacob and their families moved to Egypt after living compromised lives. They had become very worldly. Nothing notable about faith was recorded during their 400 years of Egyptian slavery. The children of Israel took on the Egyptian idols. Like Abram, Moses sort of re-discovered the lost God of creation and was known by his ancient ancestors. Abram and Moses both lived in heavily idolatrous societies.

Sometimes a generation becomes so disconnected from God; they really need to re-discover him in a fresh way. Moses was well educated in Egyptian culture, as an adopted son of the pharaoh. He knew he was a Hebrew. All of the Hebrews saw that the Egyptian idols were not making their lives good. We all need to experience disappointment before we are willing to find happiness elsewhere.

Consider Moses, walking through the desert, with his sheep. Surely he was disconnected and feeling a little lost. I am sure that he is not expecting to discover anything interesting out there.

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” 4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” 6 Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (Exodus 3:1-7)

This encounter was a staggering event. Moses had heard about the God of his ancestors.

Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” 15 Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’ ” (Exodus 3:13-15)

Moses seemed to be a bit fuzzy on the details of God's name and identity. He wanted a practical way to convey who he encountered in the desert. He needed a compelling story to gain the trust of his people, to lead them out of Egypt. “*What was your name again?*” Our Bibles tell us that God revealed himself to Moses initially as **I AM** (in english translation). *I AM* does not seem like a name to us. What does it really mean in it's original context? You need to look at Blue Letter Bible to find the original word that we translate as I Am. Every word in the bible has a number, with an identifying definition. The name I Am is Hebrew word number 1933 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

Strong's Definitions

הָיָה hâyâh, **haw-yaw**; a primitive root (compare **H1933**); **to exist**, i.e. be or become, come to pass (always emphatic, and not a mere copula or auxiliary):—**beacon**, **✗ altogether**, be(-come), accomplished, committed, like), break, **cause**, come (to pass), do, faint, fall, follow, **happen**, **✗ have**, last, pertain, quit (one-) self, require, **✗ use**.

I have heard much taught about other names of God such as:

- **EL, ELOAH [el, el-oh-ah]:** God "mighty, strong, prominent"
- **ELOHIM [el-oh-heem]:** God "Creator, Mighty and Strong" ([Genesis 17:7](#); [Jeremiah 31:33](#)) – the plural form of *Eloah*, which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity.
- **ADONAI [ədō' nār; ah-daw-nahy]:** "Lord"
- **YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH [yah-way / ji-hoh-veh]:** "LORD"
- **YAHWEH-JIREH [yah-way-ji-reh]:** "The Lord Will Provide" ([Genesis 22:14](#)) – the name memorialized by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac.
- **YAHWEH-RAPHA [yah-way-raw-faw]:** "The Lord Who Heals"
- **YAHWEH-NISSI [yah-way-nee-see]:** "The Lord Our Banner"
- **YAHWEH-M'KADDESH [yah-way-meh-kad-esh]:** "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy"
- **YAHWEH-SHALOM [yah-way-shah-lohm]:** "The Lord Our Peace"

- **YAHWEH-ELOHIM [yah-way-el-oh-him]:** "LORD God" ([Genesis 2:4](#); [Psalm 59:5](#)) – a combination of God's unique name YHWH and the generic "Lord," signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.
- **YAHWEH-TSIDKENU [yah-way-tzid-kay-noo]:** "The Lord Our Righteousness"
- **YAHWEH-ROHI [yah-way-roh-hee]:** "The Lord Our Shepherd"
- **YAHWEH-SHAMMAH [yah-way-sham-mahw]:** "The Lord Is There"
- **YAHWEH-SABAOTH [yah-way-sah-bah-oht]:** "The Lord of Hosts"
- **EL ELYON [el-el-yohn]:** "Most High"
- **EL ROI [el-roh-ee]:** "God of Seeing"
- **EL-OLAM [el-oh-lahm]:** "Everlasting God"
- **EL-GIBHOR [el-ghee-bohr]:** "Mighty God"

People relate to God, based on their needs and circumstances. To the oppressed, God might be their warrior and protector. To the starving, God may be their provider; and the one who sees me. What about Moses? Moses must have felt like a man who had lost it all for a lost cause. He took a stand to protect his people from oppression; at the risk of his office and career. He failed; and now he was working a nowhere day job, far from home with people who were not even his own people. God cannot do much with us when we are *a somebody* or *a recognized person*. We have to let him re-define us.

He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.
(Matthew 10:39)

Moses was starting all over again, late in life. What he dismissed as failure was perfect preparation. He was intimately familiar with Mt. Horeb, the wilderness, the watering holes, the desert pitfalls and provisions, etc... He also had gained some leadership and administration skills. Now he could use all of this to shepherd the lost flock of Israel.

God introduced himself as I AM. We tend to name things according to where we find them, or what they look like. God did not let Moses name him. **God is conveying that *I am always here...but you just showed up to recognize it.*** In other words eternity is bumping into temporary existence. God also did not define himself here as what he can do for us. Later on, he identifies himself with human need by being called names such as: our provider, the one who saves us, the righteous one, the powerful one, etc...

With idolatry, the person will make a carved image. They will pack it up and bring it along on their journeys. With the real God; one cannot *put a genie in a bottle*. We control

nothing. It is a different paradigm altogether. God is always out there...and always around me...but I was unaware of it.

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” (Genesis 28:16)

All we really have in this life is an eternity with God to look forward to. Nothing on this planet is permanent; or fully under our control. This is a lifetime of losses and failed attempts at controlling things. Obtaining eternal life in Christ is our destiny and true home.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20)

Moses really had no place to call his home. Perhaps all of this new awareness is what inspired Moses to write here: “*You are our dwelling place through all generations.*”

Is God a place; or confined to a place? Abram thought he was at first.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10)

God is more than a guy who lives in a certain place. The scriptures teach us that God lives inside of his followers.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

At the same time, the church members collectively form a house that God lives in.

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 7

Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who [b]are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” (1 Peter 2:4-7)

The bible tells us that we have a very limited opportunity to connect with God.

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow [h]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (James 4:13-14)

God is always here; but we are not. He wants to connect with us, so that we can be with him forever. That is why Jesus was called *Immanuel*.

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” [d]Amen. (matthew 28:20)

Read Psalm 90:3-12: God is eternal and unchanging. We are praising him one day; and turning our back on him the next.

“For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” (Malachi 3:6-7)

God has made man's body temporary. He shortened our lifespan at the flood; because we were continually evil.

And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive[a] with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” (Genesis 6:3)

An awareness of our mortality keeps us more honest. Adam was looking for happiness elsewhere; so he was not ready for heaven. It would not have been *his thing*. To lock us into an eternal state like this (in our carnal mentality) would be to miss out on God. We would be close , but so far away emotionally. We have to see that the end is not good. We need to seek another life. To bring everybody to heaven would bring in pushing and shoving and uncomfortable people. That is not heaven. We need to walk with God here first. Then we can continue on in eternity. We do not magically become a different person in heaven.

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22-23)

Men's lives are a disappointment. God is showing us that the only real life is in him.

And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my [a]pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life (Genesis 47:9)

Our lives of disappointment intersect with God's eternal perfection and bliss. Will we recognize that this is our only bus out of here? Will we hang on to our sinking ship instead? The dispairs of this world are designed to drive us to God.

“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall [f]bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:17-19)

Read Psalm 90:13-17: Why is the world bent and disappointing? Consider If it was not. We would be satisfied without God; and have a tortured eternity. It is best to see through the shiny and shallow attractions around us. Joy comes from God; but it is not based on circumstances. Happiness is only about circumstances. We need to learn to live above our circumstances. It is hard to force ourselves to stop looking and thinking about what lies ahead. It is easier to focus on God; and aloof that goes away.