

Psalm 90:13-17 Part III

Read Psalm 90:13-17

This is a Psalm of Moses and the greater part of the application belongs to the Israelites in the wilderness. Particularly, that their days declined in GOD's Fury due to their rebellion and grumbling against Him. They refused to take the land GOD had given them. This people had been delivered from the bondage of the Egyptians and were at the land they were to take – the land of Canaan. Spies were sent out by the command of GOD through Moses to see what the land was like and offer a report to the people. Upon their return after 40 days of spying out the land, they admitted to Moses, just as GOD had said, the land flows with milk and honey. Then in rebellion, distrust, and fear they offered a bad report to the sons of Israel claiming the land that GOD promised was one that devours its inhabitants and the men were of great size (Nephilim). So, a “nevertheless” was offered by a majority of the spies. The “nevertheless” lead to what pragmatism leads to when we use our logic based on what we see and disregard walking by faith. This people rejected the reality of what GOD said – He had given them the land. Instead of the returning men encouraging the people to be obedient to the LORD's command to take the land, they offered complaints and murmuring to the sons of Israel. They spoke of only that which they saw, which was strong people, large fortified cities, and the descendants of Anak. The descendants of Anak were part of the Nephilim. The Nephilim were a big and great people. (Nephilim carries the meaning of “large” or “renown”) Caleb quieted the people and reminded them that by all means they should go and take possession of the land because GOD had declared it to be theirs. But the men opposed Caleb and cried out that Israel would not be able to go up against this people that lived in the land. The people grumbled against GOD and Moses and Aaron saying, [Numbers 14:3-4 NASB] **3 "Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt."** This people by their rebellion, by their spurning GOD, and by their not believing; even though GOD in His Mercy had given them sign after sign and wonder after wonder; would come under the Holy Wrath of GOD. [Numbers 14:11-12 NASB] **11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? 12 "I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they."** It is worthy to note that the LORD gave this people exactly that which they said

as they complained and murmured against GOD and His Provision. [Numbers 14:28-30 NASB] **28** "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, '**just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you;** **29** your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. **30** 'Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

Before any soul thinks I am being critical of this people as if we are better than them – I am not because we are not. We are commanded to not be arrogant against the branches. **(Romans 11:18)** We have the same earthly father, Adam. We, just as this people are born dead in our trespasses and sins. There are only two types of people; those in Christ and those that are not. That which makes the difference between the two is GOD's Grace. It is by GOD's Mercy that we are given accounts such as the one in Numbers and in this Psalm. We are blessed to be able to look back knowing now Christ as the Mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted on better promises. **(Hebrews 8:6)** This makes us grateful and thankful for GOD's Grace in that Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King. May we as His people by His mercy and to the praise of His Glorious Grace always remember that which GOD has said is greater than that which we see. May we live upon and by the Truth, the Word of GOD. I wish not to portray us as better, but present the Truth as Christ being Greater. What we are given in the last portion of Psalm 90 is Moses pleading with GOD as a type of Christ. We see a shadow of the ministry of GOD the Son interceding for His people. [Hebrews 7:25 NASB] **25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

We should heed the warnings from such passages that are given to us in this Psalm regarding GOD's Wrath and Anger against offending Him. We do share with the Israelites in the wilderness the Truth that we too are passing as a result of sin, but if He has mercifully caused you to be born again, then you are on "Higher Ground". That Higher Ground is not that we are better, but by GOD's Mercy and Grace are under a better covenant. The Higher Ground is Jesus Christ. The Higher Ground is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Higher Ground is that Work that He has done that it may be said of us, of those who are rescued from His wrath to be "in Christ". So, as we close by looking at Moses' intercession for this people, may we pause, wonder at, marvel in, and delight in our Greater Intercessor, Jesus Christ. It is He Who saves and it is He Who keeps those Whom He has saved.

Moses asks that GOD would return in mercy and acknowledges these people to still be His by his plea for Gods pity and compassion to be on them – “His servants”. He asks that GOD would satisfy in the morning; that there would be no delay for this people to once again know His Lovingkindness so that they would sing for joy and be made glad. The only satisfaction for GOD’s people is His favor. Moses asks that GOD would make them glad according to the days that GOD has afflicted them. Moses has already acknowledged that the affliction was indeed justice meted out against iniquity. Trial being the messenger for Grace enables us to know the joy of GOD’s Mercy. Moses dwells upon the word “servants” as he intercedes for them. May we be ever grateful because Jesus calls those who does what He commands “friends”.

This people would do just as man is prone. They would try to cover up or atone for their sin by “doing” something just as Adam and Eve after the Fall. After GOD’s judgement of not being able to enter the land, some heedlessly tried to take the land apart from GOD being with them. They went up without the ark and Moses and were crushed. In this we are shown our works are faulty, but as we see as part of Moses’ plea in verse 16, GOD’s Work is where we find comfort. Our effort apart from GOD will find no favor with Him. One of the believer’s greatest hope and ambition is that our King’s majesty would be shown to our children as we see in the last part of verse 16. Moses closes his intercession by asking that the work of this people’s hands would be confirmed – that it would be known that LORD is with them and that which they would do would be to His Praise and His Glory.

May we bear the fruit of holiness in that the work of our hands being confirmed as worship to our Prophet, Priest, and King. May sanctification be the object of our view and our constant petition before the LORD. Praise the LORD for His Righteousness being imputed to us as His people in salvation, and our sin being imputed to Him – that Jesus was crushed and He paid the debt owed for His people’s sins.

Amen