



**RCC Phoenix – 12.12.21 – Number Your Days**

**Psalms 90:12** *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*

If anyone understood time and the importance of time it was Moses. Moses lived to be 120 and the timeline of life was split into thirds with his first 40 years spent in Egypt, his next 40 years in voluntary exile in the land of Midian, and his final 40 years wandering the wilderness leading the children of Israel to the promised land. Psalms 90 is known as the prayer of Moses and it is believed to be the oldest psalm in the bible. Many historians believe that Moses wrote this psalm while in the wilderness and it would certainly lend credence to Moses praying for the appreciation of time and how it's used. In the first part of the Psalm Moses addresses the importance of time by what time means to God.

**Psalms 90:** *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. 3 Thou turns man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. 4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. 5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. 6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.*

- 1. Moses is recognizing before God that time is an element of \_\_\_\_\_, and that God is eternal.

Moses is delineating between the eternal greatness of God and the fragileness of man by pointing out God is eternal and man is fleeting.

- 2. In context, Vs. 3 is not referring to *Return* as mankind's redemption but instead is referring to the return to the dust as in man's \_\_\_\_\_.

Moses continues to emphasize the importance of time and the futile resistance to its passing in the following verses.

**Psalms 90:9-10** *For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

- 3. Moses is not only explaining the \_\_\_\_\_ of time in the life of man but explains that our efforts are nothing but \_\_\_\_\_ within the time we have.

At this point in the Psalm, Moses has now established that God is eternal, man's life is but a whisper and everything we do in our life without God is meaningless. However, in verse 12, Moses begs God to help us to understand why our time is so important.

**Psalms 90: 12** *So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

4. This simple verse is asking God to teach us that our days are numbered but there is so much more being requested in those simple words. When one is taught something the assumption is that person will learn a deep \_\_\_\_\_ of the subject and why it is important. Moses is praying for the understanding of why time is important and how it will lead to wisdom through God.

The following thoughts are lessons we can take from verse 12 by rephrasing Moses' supplication to help us gain a deeper understanding.

5. Teach us to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of time.

The greatest gift God ever gave to mankind was the gift of his innocent son for the remission of sins but the second greatest gift ever given was time. Nothing in our lives exists without the gift of time. It takes time to grow and develop, it takes time to form friendships, it takes time to gain wealth, it takes time to find love, and it takes time to form a relationship with God. God gifted us a certain amount of time meaning every day we have belongs to God and is a blessing. We can return this gift to others by removing selfishness and giving our time to others.

6. Teach us to understand that time is not a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 15: 51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

We often have this innate entitlement that we will always have more time, but even if we were to live two hundred years, this won't stop the very real fact that our lord is returning and it can be at any time. We cannot look forward to the time we might not have but seize the moments we do to serve God and serve others.

7. Teach us to understand that time stops for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalms 39: 4-5** "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. **5** You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

Wealth, fame, popularity, status, titles all do nothing to stop the flow of time. People try to delay their end of days with expensive products, health routines, the finest trainers, and the best facilities and while this might delay the end, the end is still inevitable.

8. Teach us how to understand when our time is being \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 18:14** When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" **15** Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. **16** Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions." **17** Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not

good. **18** You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

Even though our hearts may be completely turned to God, we can still allow ourselves to be overwhelmed. Jethro is trying to teach Moses to balance his time but with the help of others. Jethro is explaining that no one person is meant to do everything and that we must be willing to ask for help when our time is being overwhelmed by our everyday responsibilities.

9. Teach us how to \_\_\_\_\_ our time.

If time is a gift from God, then it is given with responsibility but also the understanding that it can be used for enjoyment as long as we are enjoying the right things. We should enjoy the time we have with family, friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ and with our God himself. However, while we are enjoying it let us always pause to remember how precious it is and that eventually it will come to an end.

**Conclusion:** Time does not belong to us. It is not a commodity that we can buy more of when it runs out and each minute is more precious than the last. The most effective way to appreciate our time is by giving it to God first. There is never wasted time in service to him. Give God the first minutes of your day and it will serve as a reminder that every minute thereafter belongs to him but has been given by grace to you. Use it wisely.