

## **Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17<sup>iii</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

<sup>6</sup>In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

<sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? \*  
be gracious to your servants.

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; \*  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

<sup>15</sup>Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works \*  
and your splendor to their children.

<sup>17</sup>May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; \*  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

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<sup>iii</sup> **About Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17**

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This psalm faces squarely the dark realities of the human condition within the context of faith. Verses 1-2 serve as a preface, introducing the psalmist's unshakable conviction of God's sovereignty. The psalmist confesses the painfulness of life's brevity (vv. 3-6) and the dreadfulness of enduring this fleeting life in the heat of God's righteous anger at our iniquities (vv. 7-11). These reflections culminate in the closing prayer (vv. 12-17), in which the psalmist pleads for God's merciful compassion.

In this psalm, attributed to Moses, the shortness of human life is lamented, and God's presence is sought so that the people may rejoice in all their days.