

## New Year's Eve – December 31, 2019

### Psalm 90:1,2,4

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

As another year comes to a close this evening, think back to what may have changed for you in this past year. Maybe you changed jobs or schools, maybe you changed houses or cars. Maybe there was a new addition to your family, maybe a family member was lost to death. Maybe you put on or lost some weight, maybe you grew a couple of inches taller or maybe your hair is just a bit more gray. Maybe there were a lot of changes in your life, or maybe there were just a few. But tonight as we look at our text from Psalm 90, we will see that although there may be change all around us, there is at least one thing that never changes. And so we focus on this thought: **“Although the Years May Change...Our God Remains the Same.”**

Psalm 90 is unique among the psalms in that it was written by Moses. He may have written other ones, but this is only one of the 150 where authorship is credited to him. We do not know when in his life he wrote this psalm, but imagine for a moment that he wrote it near the end of his life. Over the 120 years of his life, he certainly would have witnessed many changes for God's people. The first forty years of his life were spent growing up in Pharaoh's household, having been rescued from his basket in the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter. He would have had every privilege and luxury imaginable, essentially as an adopted grandson of the king. But then he would kill an Egyptian and flee to Midian for forty years where he would find a wife and shepherd flocks for his father-in-law. Then around age 80 his life would really begin. He would go back to Egypt and after the ten plagues lead God's people out of slavery. Then because of the people's rebellion he would spend the next forty years leading them around the desert, waiting for the time when they would finally be able to enter the promised land of Canaan. Really there were three distinct lifetimes for Moses with more changes than most people would have in one.

With such a perspective perhaps, Moses then was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these verses before us. Verse 1: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” Throughout Moses' life, the Lord had been his refuge, his dwelling place. The Lord had planned out his life—the first forty was training to be a leader of a great nation, the next forty was to prepare him for those years in the desert. And then certainly during those years of leading God's people and dealing with their grumbling and rebellion, he would turn to the Lord for help and comfort.

Verse 2: “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Imagine Moses at the end of his life going up Mt. Nebo, where he would die, and seeing the mountains. Mountains are some of the oldest features of our earth, they have been there for generations, but yet God was there longer. He created the mountains and the world and was everlasting. He would certainly be there for Moses throughout all the changes of his life.

Verse 4: “4 For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.” Having been led by the Holy Spirit to write the book of Genesis, Moses would certainly have known well the list of forefathers descended from Adam. And the thousand years Moses mentions here were their lifetimes. Adam lived for 930 years and the

oldest, Methuselah, lived for 969 years (Ge 5:4,27). But in the Lord's sight, a thousand years, was just like a day that passes by quickly, like a three hour watch during the night. Moses is the last person recorded in the Bible to have lived to 120 years. But even with all the change that he saw, the Lord had not changed and had continued to be with him through it all.

I don't think that many of us here tonight are expecting to live 120 years. We may live 80, 90, or maybe even 100 years. But no matter how long we will have lived, there will have been a lot of change. Think back through your lifetime and all the changes that have taken place in the world, both for good and bad. Changes in technology and industry as advancements are made from computers and cell phones to radio and television and even indoor plumbing. World politics has changed as nations rise and fall and wars have been won and lost. But as we look at the world around us, no matter how many advancements are made, the world is getting worse. It is aging, it is falling apart. We will never have world peace, we will never cure every disease. Sin will always be a part of this world and continue to increase until the end. As each year passes quickly by, as things change all around us, the world marches ever closer to its own destruction.

In the face of such somber facts, our comfort comes from our text. Just as with Moses and every generation since, the Lord is also our dwelling place. In times of national crisis or disaster, he is our refuge. In times of personal heartache, he is our comfort. In times when we feel threatened by sin or death or the devil, he is our strength. It all goes back to the birth of the baby we just celebrated a week ago. Through Christ's life and death, we have been made dead to sin and alive to Christ. As God's children, we have an open invitation to that dwelling place, to live securely in our God whenever we need him, which is more often than we might think.

From everlasting to everlasting he is our God—that will never change. He has always kept his promises and will continue to do so. The span of our lives may seem like a drop in the bucket from God's perspective of eternity. But that does not mean that he forgets about any of us. He is still the all-powerful and all-knowing Lord who will continue to be with us through all of life's changes.

When Moses was around 80 years old the Lord spoke to him through the burning bush telling him of his mission to lead the Israelites from Egypt. Moses gave him every excuse he could come up with for not doing it. But the Lord's response was that he would be with him and help him and give him the signs to perform and words to say (Ex 3). As we enter another year and face whatever is coming in our lives in 2020, the same is true for us. The Lord will be us no matter what changes may happen or what problems may come our way. He will never change and will make sure to continue being our dwelling place until the time we are taken to his heavenly dwelling place. Amen.