

# Wisdom & Time Study Guide

This guide provides a comprehensive review of the sermon, which focuses on Psalm 90, a prayer written by Moses. It explores the psalm's historical context, its core theological themes, and its practical application for believers.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the relationship between sin, judgment, and the brevity of human life as presented in the sermon's analysis of Psalm 90. Use the specific examples from Moses' life and the fate of the Exodus generation to support your points.
2. Analyze the use of contrast as a central rhetorical device in explaining Psalm 90. How does the juxtaposition of God's eternity and humanity's fragility shape the psalm's meaning and its application for the listener?
3. Explore the theme of hope in Psalm 90. Despite its "very somber" tone and focus on death, how does Moses find hope, joy, and purpose in the face of divine judgment and human mortality?
4. Using the historical context of Numbers 20, explain how personal loss and failure (the deaths of Miriam and Aaron, Moses' own sin) shaped the message and tone of Psalm 90.
5. What does the prayer "teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom" mean in the full context of this sermon? Discuss the concept of "wisdom" and how one is meant to apply it to daily life.

## Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
<b>Psalm 90</b>	A psalm from the Bible, identified as being written by Moses. It is described as a very serious and somber prayer that deals with the realities of life and death, contrasting God's eternity with man's transitory nature.
<b>Moses</b>	The author of Psalm 90 and the leader of Israel during the Exodus. The psalm is presented as his personal reflection written near the end of his life, following significant personal losses.
<b>Isaac Watts</b>	The author of a well-known hymn paraphrase of Psalm 90, which begins, "O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come."
<b>Numbers 20</b>	The chapter in the Book of Numbers that provides the immediate historical background for Psalm 90. Key events include the death of Miriam, Moses' sin at Kadesh, and the subsequent death of Aaron.
<b>Miriam</b>	Moses' older sister. Her death, recorded with a very short "obituary" in Numbers 20, is a pivotal event prompting the reflections in Psalm 90. She is described as one of the last of her generation who remembered the Exodus from Egypt.
<b>Aaron</b>	Moses' brother. His death on Mount Hor, which occurred a few months after Miriam's, is another significant loss surrounding Moses as he composed the psalm.

<b>Kadesh</b>	An area in the wilderness of Zin where the Israelites were staying when Miriam died and where Moses committed his sin of striking the rock.
<b>Promised Land</b>	The land God promised to the people of Israel. As a judgment for his sin, Moses was told he could see it from a distance but would not be allowed to enter it.
<b>Heart of Wisdom</b>	The desired outcome of "numbering our days." This is not knowing one's lifespan, but gaining the perspective to live the remainder of one's life for God and for things of eternal value.
<b>Transitory</b>	A key adjective used to describe the nature of human life. It signifies that human existence is brief, fleeting, and not permanent in this world.