

Psalm 90 Eternal God and Mortal Man

CHARACTERS: Moses, Miriam, All, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 90

MOSES: Lord, You have been our refuge in every generation.

ALL: Before the mountains were born,

MIRIAM: before You gave birth to the earth and the world,

ALL: from eternity to eternity, You are God.

Z; You return mankind to the dust, saying,

VOICE of GOD: Return, descendants of Adam.

ALL: For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by,

MIRIAM: like a few hours of the night.

ALL: You end their lives; they sleep.

MOSES: They are like grass that grows in the morning—

ALL: in the morning it sprouts and grows;

MIRIAM: By evening, it withers and dries up.

ALL: For we are consumed by Your anger; we are terrified by Your wrath.

MOSES: You have set our unjust ways before You,

ALL: our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

MIRIAM: For all our days ebb away under Your wrath;

ALL: we end our years like a sigh.

MOSES: Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years.

ALL: Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow;

MIRIAM: indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away.

ALL: Who understands the power of Your anger?

MOSES: Your wrath matches the fear that is due You.

ALL: Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

MIRIAM: LORD—how long? Turn and have compassion on Your servants.

ALL: Satisfy us in the morning with Your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days.

MOSES: Make us rejoice for as many days as You have humbled us,

ALL: for as many years as we have seen adversity.

MIRIAM: Let Your work be seen by Your servants, and Your splendor by their children.

ALL: Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us;

MOSES: establish for us the work of our hands—

ALL: establish the work of our hands!

Psalm 91 The Protection of the Most High

CHARACTERS: Moses, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 91

BEFORE YOU READ A SECOND TIME: Read Exodus 12:12-13, 29-30, 33. We do not know who wrote this Psalm, but consider if it were written following the first Passover, how will that affect how this Psalm is read.

MOSES: The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say¹ to the LORD,

ALL: My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

MOSES: He Himself will deliver you from the hunter's net, from the destructive plague.

ALL: He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings.

MOSES: His faithfulness will be a protective shield.

ALL: You will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by day,

MOSES: the plague that stalks in darkness or the pestilence that ravages at noon.

ALL: Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand,

MOSES: the pestilence will not reach you.

ALL: You will only see it with your eyes and witness the punishment of the wicked.

MOSES: Because you have made the LORD—my refuge, the Most High—your dwelling place,

ALL: no harm will come to you; no plague will come near your tent.

MOSES: For He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways.

ALL: They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

MOSES: You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the young lion and the serpent.

VOICE OF GOD: Because he is lovingly devoted to Me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he knows My name.

ALL: When we call out to God

VOICE OF GOD: I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will rescue him and give him honor.

MOSES: God will satisfy me with a long life

VOICE OF GOD: and show him My salvation.

Psalm 92 God's Love and Faithfulness

CHARACTERS: Asaph, Korah, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 92

ASAPH: It is good to praise Yahweh, to sing praise to Your name, Most High,

ALL: to declare Your faithful love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night,

KORAH: with a ten-stringed harp and the music of a lyre.

ASAPH: For You have made me rejoice, LORD, by what You have done;

ALL: I will shout for joy because of the works of Your hands.

KORAH: How magnificent are Your works, LORD, how profound Your thoughts!

ALL: A stupid person does not know, a fool does not understand this:

ASAPH: Though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish,

ALL: they will be eternally destroyed.

KORAH: But You, LORD, are exalted forever.

ALL: For indeed, LORD, Your enemies— indeed, Your enemies will perish;

ASAPH: all evildoers will be scattered.

ALL: You have lifted up my horn like that of a wild ox;

KORAH: I have been anointed with oil.

ALL: My eyes look down on my enemies; my ears hear evildoers when they attack me.

ASAPH: The righteous thrive like a palm tree and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.

ALL: Planted in the house of the LORD, they thrive in the courts of our God.

KORAH: They will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green, to declare:

ALL: The LORD is just; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Psalm 93 God's Eternal Reign

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 93

DAVID: The LORD reigns! He is robed in majesty;

ALL: The LORD is robed, enveloped in strength.

DAVID: The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.

ALL: Your throne has been established from the beginning

DAVID: You are from eternity.

ALL: The floods have lifted up, LORD,

DAVID: the floods have lifted up their voice;

ALL: the floods lift up their pounding waves.

DAVID: Greater than the roar of many waters— the mighty breakers of the sea—

ALL: the LORD on high is majestic.

DAVID: LORD, Your testimonies are completely reliable;

ALL: holiness is the beauty of Your house for all the days to come.

Psalm 94 The Just Judge

CHARACTERS: David, All. Enemy

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 94

DAVID: LORD, God of vengeance— God of vengeance, appear.

ALL: Rise up, Judge of the earth; repay the proud what they deserve.

DAVID: LORD, how long will the wicked— how long will the wicked gloat?

ALL: They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.

DAVID: LORD, they crush Your people; they afflict Your heritage.

ALL: They kill the widow and the foreigner and murder the fatherless. They say,

ENEMY: The LORD doesn't see it. The God of Jacob doesn't pay attention.

DAVID: Pay attention, you stupid people!

ALL: Fools, when will you be wise?

DAVID: Can the One who shaped the ear not hear, the One who formed the eye not see?

ALL: The One who instructs nations,

DAVID: the One who teaches man knowledge—

ALL: does He not discipline?

DAVID: The LORD knows man's thoughts; they are meaningless.

ALL: LORD, happy is the man You discipline and teach from Your law to give him relief from troubled times

DAVID: until a pit is dug for the wicked.

ALL: The LORD will not forsake His people or abandon His heritage,

DAVID: for justice will again be righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow¹ it.

ALL: Who stands up for me against the wicked?

DAVID: Who takes a stand for me against evildoers?

ALL: If the LORD had not been my helper, I would soon rest in the silence of death. If I say,

DAVID: My foot is slipping,

ALL: Your faithful love will support me, LORD.

DAVID: When I am filled with cares, Your comfort brings me joy.

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ALL: Can a corrupt throne— one that creates trouble by law— become Your ally?

DAVID: They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

ALL: But the LORD is my refuge; my God is the rock of my protection.

DAVID: He will pay them back for their sins and destroy them for their evil.

ALL: The LORD our God will destroy them.

Psalm 95 Worship and Warning

CHARACTERS:

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 95

BEFORE YOU READ: Consider Exodus 17:3-7 the people thirsted there for water, and grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What should I do with these people? In a little while they will stone me!" The Lord answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go. I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

DAVID: Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!

ALL: Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song.

DAVID: For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.

ALL: The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His.

DAVID: The sea is His; He made it.

ALL: His hands formed the dry land.

DAVID: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

ALL: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care.

DAVID: Today, if you hear His voice: Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,

VOICE OF GOD: as on that day at Massah in the wilderness where your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they had seen what I did.

ALL: For 40 years, God was disgusted with that generation;

VOICE OF GOD: They are a people whose hearts go astray; they do not know My ways. So I swore in My anger, "They will not enter My rest."

Psalm 96 King of the Earth

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 96

DAVID: Sing a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

ALL: Sing to Yahweh, praise His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day.

DAVID: Declare His glory among the nations,

ALL: His wonderful works among all peoples.

DAVID: For the LORD is great and is highly praised; He is feared above all gods.

ALL: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

DAVID: Splendor and majesty are before Him;

ALL: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

DAVID: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

ALL: Ascribe to Yahweh the glory of His name; bring an offering and enter His courts.

DAVID: Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness;

ALL: tremble before Him, all the earth.

DAVID: Say among the nations:

ALL: The LORD reigns. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken. He judges the peoples fairly.

DAVID: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and all that fills it resound.

ALL: Let the fields and everything in them exult.

DAVID: Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy before the LORD, for He is coming—

ALL: for He is coming to judge the earth.

DAVID: He will judge the world with righteousness

ALL: and the peoples with His faithfulness.

Psalm 97 The Majestic King

CHARACTERS: David, All, Group A & B

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 97

DAVID: The LORD reigns! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coasts and islands be glad.

GROUP A: Clouds and thick darkness surround Him;

GROUP B: righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

ALL: Fire goes before Him and burns up His foes on every side.

DAVID: His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

GROUP A: The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD—

GROUP B: at the presence of the Lord of all the earth.

ALL: The heavens proclaim His righteousness; all the peoples see His glory.

DAVID: All who serve carved images, those who boast in idols, will be put to shame.

ALL: All the gods¹ must worship Him.

GROUP A: Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, LORD.

GROUP B: For You, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;

ALL: You are exalted above all the gods.

DAVID: You who love the LORD, hate evil!

GROUP A: He protects the lives of His godly ones;

GROUP B: He rescues them from the power of the wicked.

DAVID: Light dawns for the righteous, gladness for the upright in heart.

ALL: Be glad in Yahweh, you righteous ones, and praise His holy name.

Psalm 98 Praise the King

CHARACTERS: David, Group A & B, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 98

DAVID: Sing a new song to the LORD, for He has performed wonders;

GROUP A: His right hand and holy arm have won Him victory.

GROUP B: The LORD has made His victory known;

ALL: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

DAVID: He has remembered His love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

GROUP A: all the ends of the earth have seen our God's victory.

ALL: (*shouting*) Shout to the LORD, all the earth; be jubilant, shout for joy, and sing.

GROUP B: Sing to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and melodious song.

DAVID: With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn

ALL: shout triumphantly in the presence of the LORD, our King.

GROUP A: Let the sea and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it, resound.

DAVID: Let the rivers clap their hands;

GROUP B: let the mountains shout together for joy before the LORD,

DAVID: for He is coming to judge the earth.

ALL: He will judge the world righteously and the peoples fairly.

Psalm 99 The King Is Holy

CHARACTERS: David, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 99

Before You Read: Picking up cues does not mean faster speech. It means listening carefully so you can immediately begin your line when another reader finishes. Not picking up cues affects a crucial aspect of reader's theatre called pacing. Even small delays between readers make the reading seem like it drags. Listeners lose interest. This reading has very short lines which make picking up cues quickly essential.

DAVID: The LORD reigns! Let the peoples tremble.

ALL: He is enthroned above the cherubim.

DAVID: Let the earth quake.

ALL: Yahweh is great in Zion; He is exalted above all the peoples.

DAVID: Let them praise Your great and awe-inspiring name.

ALL: He is holy.

DAVID: The mighty King loves justice.

ALL: You have established fairness;

DAVID: You have administered justice and righteousness in Jacob.

DAVID: Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at His footstool.

ALL: He is holy.

DAVID: Moses and Aaron were among His priests;

ALL: Samuel also was among those calling on His name.

DAVID: They called to Yahweh and He answered them.

ALL: He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud;

DAVID: they kept His decrees and the statutes He gave them.

ALL: LORD our God, You answered them.

DAVID: You were a forgiving God to them,

ALL: an avenger of their sinful actions.

DAVID: Exalt the LORD our God; bow in worship at His holy mountain,

ALL: for the LORD our God is holy.

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