

# A Psalm of Moses

by Chuck Smith

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*Pastor Chuck Smith explores the themes of eternity, the fragility of human life, and the importance of prayer in Psalm 90.*

**Duration:** 25:05

**Scripture:** Psalm 90:14-15, Psalm 90:17 - 91:2, Psalm 91:4

**Topics:** "Moses"

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## Description

The video discusses the various ways in which Christians view Halloween. Some Christians see it as an opportunity to preach the gospel and engage with people by giving out candy and tracts. Pastor Chuck and Don Stewart have released a DVD called 'Halloween, Innocent Fun or Spiritual Deception' to educate and equip Christians with information about Halloween. The video also touches on the story of Jack-o-lanterns, which originated from a sinner named Jack. The overall message of the video is to encourage Christians to use their time wisely and invest in eternal things.

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## Transcript

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you With His Spirit and His love Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you And His Spirit and His love Will descend upon your life and make you whole  
Welcome to The Word for Today Featuring the Bible teaching of Pastor Chuck Smith Of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California  
Pastor Chuck is currently leading us on a verse-by-verse venture Through the entire Bible And on today's edition of The Word for Today We'll be continuing with A Psalm of Moses  
As we pick up in the 90th Psalm Beginning with verse 1 And now with today's message Here's Pastor Chuck Smith  
This psalm is entitled A Prayer of Moses, The Man of God We do know that Moses was a composer He wrote songs for the children of Israel We have one recorded for us

in Deuteronomy 32 And then in heaven We read concerning the 144,000 That they sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb  
Here's another of the psalms Or songs of Moses In it we have more or less a classic example Of Hebrew poetry  
Hebrew poetry varies a lot from our English poetry With theirs it is not a rhyming of words They don't look for a rhythm or a rhyme  
In our poetry we have a meter or we have sort of a rhythm And then there is the idea of the rhyming of the words That constitute English poetry  
In the Hebrew poetry It is the thought that creates to them the beauty of poetry And the thoughts can be parallel thoughts  
The same thing expressed in a different way Or the same thing expressed with increased amplification  
Or there can be contrasting thoughts And so they find the beauty in the

contrasting of thoughts In Psalm 90 of course there is a vivid contrast Because the contrast is between God and between man The eternal infinite God and the temporal finite man So it makes quite a contrast So he begins with declaring the eternal nature of God Lord thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations Before the mountains were brought forth or ever Thou hast formed the earth and the world Even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God God has always existed There was never a time when God did not exist He is the eternal God Who dwells outside of time continuum In that eternal realm Something that our minds cannot fathom The word everlasting we have mentioned In the Hebrew literally is the vanishing point Or this particular word it goes a step further Beyond the vanishing

point Thou art God Created before there was a universe Before the worlds were ever created God existed On the other side of the coin in contrast with that Man so fragile, so frail, so temporal Thou turnest man to destruction The word destruction is to grind to the finest particles or dust Thou turnest man to dust Book of Genesis God declared to Adam after his sin That dust thou art and to dust you shall return We are told that God took and formed man out of the dust of the earth It is interesting that the same 17 elements that make up the dust or the dirt Are the same 17 elements found in man's body Thus thou art to dust you shall return Spoken of the physical body of man You return him to dust And you say return ye children of men That is return back to the dust We have just a limited

time here upon the earth But with God dwelling in the eternal Time is totally relative For a thousand years in thy sight or as yesterday when it is past Is like a watch in the night Peter in talking to us about the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ Encourages us actually to patience in a way Because he said that God has made the promise That Jesus is coming again and God is not slack Concerning his promises But he is faithful But it's important he said to understand that a thousand years is as a day Unto the Lord and a day is as a thousand years In other words time is totally relative Einstein theorized that if you could speed your body Accelerate your body to the speed of light That time would actually stand still Should man develop his technical capacities and skills To create a

rocket That would begin to approach the speed of light And you decided to visit One of the further stars of our Milky Way galaxy You get in your rocket and you soup that thing up And you begin to travel At the speed of light It would take you a hundred thousand earth years to get there A hundred thousand earth years to return So when you would return to the earth it would be some 200,000 years older However traveling at that speed You would only be something like 12 years older or something they theorized So the relativity of time God dwelling outside of time A thousand years in thy sight but as yesterday when it is past Like a watch in the night But with man you carry him away as with a flood Man's time upon earth is just so short It's like when we were kids If we would go to sleep in

the back of the car And they'd say wake up we're home We'd say oh we can't be home We just got in the car And yet how time seems to pass so quickly When asleep and so life passes by so quickly In the morning they are like grass which groweth up In the morning it flourishes But in the evening it is cut down and withers The cycle of life so quickly over For we are consumed by thine anger And in thy wrath or by thy wrath we are troubled For you have set our iniquities before thee And our secret sins in the light of your countenance For our days are passed away in thy wrath And we spend our years as a tale that is told So again the frailty and the quickness of life And death comes so surely And the result of sin The wages of sin we are reaping them In this brevity of time that we have to live

When God first placed man upon the earth The body that he gave him was in much better shape Than our bodies today A good average lifetime then was 900 years And imagine Adam lived almost One sixth the

time of human history He lived to be over 900 years old And now 70 years as we will get to in a moment Is the average that we have here In the beginning probably a lot less radiation A better protection with the water canopy That was around the earth before the flood Shielding out more of the cosmic radiation Which bombards our earth And causes the mutation of the cells The ultimate breakdown of the cells And the aging processes And so God cut down the average age of man After the flood And so all of our days are passed in thy wrath We spend our years as a tale that is told I like that I

think that I would translate that We spend our life like a rerun A tale that has been told God knows the end from the beginning God knows all about us There isn't a thing that you have ever done That God does not know And has always known I've often said that God is never disappointed in you It's only you that are disappointed in yourself Because you didn't realize you were that rotten You didn't realize you were capable of doing those things And thus you're very disappointed in yourself But not God, he knew it all the time As far as God is concerned You spend your life like a rerun Like it's already happened God knowing the end from the beginning The days of our years are 3 score and 10 or 70 years old And if by reason of some super strength that you have You go on to live to be 80 years

old or 80 plus It's a labor It's not easy The strength is gone And we are soon cut off and fly away For who knows the power of thine anger Even according to thy reverence or fear so is thy wrath So Lord, teach us then to number our days Teach me Lord to realize that I only have a certain amount of time I only have an allotted time And my allotments almost run out So teach me to number my days That I might incline my heart to wisdom That I might use the time that I have wisely The Bible speaks of redeeming the time I think of all of the wasted time I look at my own life and I grieve over wasted time We have only one life It will soon be passed And only what we do for Christ is going to last We should spend our time and invest our time in eternal things Jesus said lay up for yourselves

treasure in heaven Invest in the eternal kingdom of God Our time, our energies So teach us Lord to number our days That we might use them wisely Return oh Lord, how long?

Let it repent thee concerning thy servants Oh satisfy us early with thy mercy That we may rejoice and be glad of our days This is called the prayer of Moses and we finally get to his prairie These are the petitions of the prayer The whole thing I guess is a prayer But in the prayer it follows a pattern of scriptural prayer And that is in the scriptures in prayer They didn't just rush right in with their petitions But they entered into prayer first of all In the acknowledgement of the one that they were praying to In this case the Lord who has been our dwelling place Who has existed forever from everlasting to everlasting So I'm praying to God Oh Lord the disciple said thou art God Who has created the heavens and the earth Jesus said when you pray say our father which art in heaven Hallowed be thy name And it isn't just immediately presenting the petitions And so the psalmist doesn't just immediately rush in and say Lord I need this and I need this and I need this And by Tuesday if you don't mind Just spending time and acknowledging God The greatness of God, the powers of God And our own weaknesses, our own frailties That's the reason why we pray Because we're not capable, we don't have the capacity, the ability And so we come to God for his help And so satisfy us early with thy mercy That we might rejoice and be glad all of our days Make us glad according to the days wherein you have afflicted us And the years wherein we have seen evil They have been for 40 years wandering there in the wilderness They were hard times, difficult times That wilderness wandering So Lord make us glad according to the days that you have afflicted us And the years wherein we have seen the evil Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory to their children And then I love this 17th verse Prayer of my heart And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us And establish thou the work of our hands upon us Yes, the work of our hands establish it But oh that the beauty of the Lord

might be upon our lives God make it so Psalm 91 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High Where is it?

It's abiding under the shadow of the Almighty The secret place of the Most High is where you make God Your dwelling place As Paul said in Him we live, we move, we have our being And he that has that conscious life in Christ Aware of that life in Him Will find that God will be your refuge Your place of comfort and rest, protection Your fortress, place of strength, power My God, in Him will I trust For surely if you're dwelling in that secret place of the Most High He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler The fowler was a man who trapped birds The bird man You wanted to eat pigeon you had to trap him Of course in those days they would trap them The snare of the fowler It's an allegory Satan is the one who is seeking to trap you, to destroy you And Satan lays his traps for the child of God But surely he shall deliver you From the snare of the fowler And from the evil plague For he will cover you with his feathers Under his wings shalt thou trust Another beautiful allegory Of the mother hen Ruffling her feathers so that the little chicks that have been frightened may Run to her and find shelter, find that place of Comfort and protection under her wings Shalt thou trust his truth Shall be thy shield and thy buckler God's truth is the thing that Is my shield against the attacks of the enemy Jesus used the truth as the shield against Satan's attacks The truth of God's word when Satan would come to him he said it is written And he used the word of God as a shield We'll return with more of our verse by verse study through the book of Psalms In our next lesson As Pastor Chuck Smith continues with Abiding in God's Presence And we do hope you'll make plans to join us But right now I'd like to remind you that if you missed any part of today's message Or perhaps you'd like to order a copy for that special friend or loved one You can do so by simply contacting one of our customer service representatives And they'd be more than happy to assist you with the ordering details Simply call 1-800-272-WORD And phone orders can be taken Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Box 8000 Costa Mesa, California 92628 And be sure to include the call letters of this station with your correspondence And now before we close out today's program I'd like to remind you that Don Stewart is joining us this week All week in the studio to help answer some of the many questions we get Concerning the subject of Halloween And Don, this listener writes Is there any special significance as to why we carve pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns on Halloween? The history of the jack-o'-lanterns is very interesting As the story goes a man named Jack actually found Satan and caught him up a tree And wouldn't let him come down until Satan assured Jack that he wouldn't go to hell one day Well the problem was Jack was a sinner and he couldn't get into heaven either And so what happened was Jack had to roam the earth with one of the embers from hell First in a turnip or a carrot to light his way during the night Since he was this poor lost soul that couldn't go to heaven and couldn't get into hell either And so the whole thing of the jack-o'-lanterns has this person wandering through the earth during the night Trying to find his merry way Eventually what happened, the pumpkin was substituted for the carrot or the turnip And a light was put into that to guide old Jack to find his way around the earth Because he can't go to heaven or can't go to hell So every time you see a pumpkin carved with a light in the middle It reminds us of the story of Jack That he couldn't get to heaven, couldn't get to hell because Satan promised him he wouldn't go And he is roaming the earth trying to find his way in this darkened world That being said Don, should Christians have

anything to do at all with pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns?

You know that's a good question But you know the idea of the jack-o'-lantern is something that was very ancient in the mythology So I think 99 out of 100 or maybe 100 out of 100 people don't really understand the background of it Once you understand it I think it's something that each person has to decide in their own mind But that is the history of it It became a tradition based on this myth that this man named Jack got Satan up the tree And therefore he has to wander the earth because Satan promised him he wouldn't go to hell And God said no Jack you're a sinner, you can't go to heaven And so when we put lights inside the jack-o'-lantern that's the history behind it Now what it exactly means to each of us today is something quite a bit different So that's something people have to decide in their own minds Thanks Don, and we'll be looking forward to hearing more from you tomorrow As we find out what the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages had to do with Halloween And now on behalf of The Word for Today We'd like to thank all of you who share in supporting this ministry With your prayers and financial support And be sure to join us again next time As Pastor Chuck Smith continues his verse-by-verse venture through the Psalms That's right here on the next edition of The Word for Today Now once again, here's Pastor Chuck Smith with today's closing comments May the Lord be with you, give you a good week May His love just fill your heart until you just over...

In fact may your heart sort of be like just pressured with God's love So great that you feel you're going to pop May you just experience the consciousness of God's presence As He leads and guides you in His path May it be just a week of spiritual growth Drawing closer to God In Jesus' name Good morning class Good morning Mrs. Johnson What are we going to do today Mrs. Johnson? Today we're going to make witches and carve jack-o'-lanterns Pastor Chuck and Don Stewart have released an informative DVD entitled Halloween, Innocent Fun or Spiritual Deception This DVD will educate and equip you with helpful information about Halloween to defend the faith Let's talk about the jack-o'-lantern The jack-o'-lantern story goes back to a sinner Supposedly an ember from hell itself was given to Jack How do you think Christians, some Christians feel about Halloween?

There are basically five ways in which Christians view Halloween This is a night they're going to come to our door Let's use it to preach the gospel, to engage these people To give candy to the kids, but also give them a tract, give them a Bible and give the gospel To order this Halloween DVD hosted by Pastor Chuck and Don Stewart Call the Word for Today at 800-272-WORD Or visit us online to watch a preview at [thewordfortoday.org](http://thewordfortoday.org) This program has been sponsored by The Word for Today In Costa Mesa, California

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