

A Year-end Sigh

Text: Psalm 90:9

Introduction

This psalm by Moses contemplates the termination of a frail human lifetime. It might easily have been written at the end of one of the 40 years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (compare the Amplified Bible). Many of those years must have ended in discouragement, a sigh of frustration, as promises of a better land remained unfulfilled.

At this year's end, are we glad to wash our hands of its problems, disappointments, and frustrations? But will next year be any better? It can, if we:

Message

1. Evaluate the experiences of the past year and learn from its mistakes and failures.

“Teach us to number our days” (Psalm 90:12) that we may become wiser.

2. See God's presence and purpose even in a past year of testing and trial.

“Let thy work appear unto thy servants” (Psalm 90:16).

Conclusion

At the end of each of the 40 years, Moses and the Israelites were a little closer to the Promised Land. Each year a few more doubters from an unfaithful generation fell by the way. Many of the 40 years were low years, discouraging years, but the final glory (Psalm 90:16) redeemed the temporary frustrations.

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Endnote

1. The American Standard Version (ASV) of the Holy Bible was first published in 1901 by Thomas Nelson and Sons. This translation of the Holy Bible is in the public domain, since its copyright has expired and is the predecessor to the New American Standard Bible.