

Reading Through Psalm - My Thoughts and Comments

Psalm 39: 4-7

New International Version

Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. Amen But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

The Message

"Tell me, what's going on, God? How long do I have to live? Give me the bad news! You've kept me on pretty short rations; my life is string too short to be saved. Oh! we're all puffs of air. Oh! we're all shadows in a campfire. Oh! we're just spit in the wind. We make our pile, and then we leave it. Lord,

The mortal body does end; the flesh turns back to dust; but the life hereafter is a gift from God. For the Psalmist, the realization of life's end is well known and, if it be David, the possibility of death by King Saul has been a going concern.

The benefit from realizing our own mortality is the value applied to the life everlasting - the gift made possibly through salvation in Jesus Christ. In this present life, the events can vary from good to bad, from pleasing to pain; or in similar contrasts. Whether a believer in Christ or not, "the rain falls on both the righteous and unrighteous"; or in other words, pain and suffering visits everyone at some time of their life. The certainty of such events could lead to bleakness and hopelessness if not for the one fundamental truth that God is God and, in creating us, is genuinely interested and invested in our lives. Very simply, God loves you and has promised to help believers as they cry out to him (or pray). It is God (his promises) for which our hope should rest - and not on anything else!

H. Kirk Rainer