



Psalms
The Book of Praises

Lesson 15

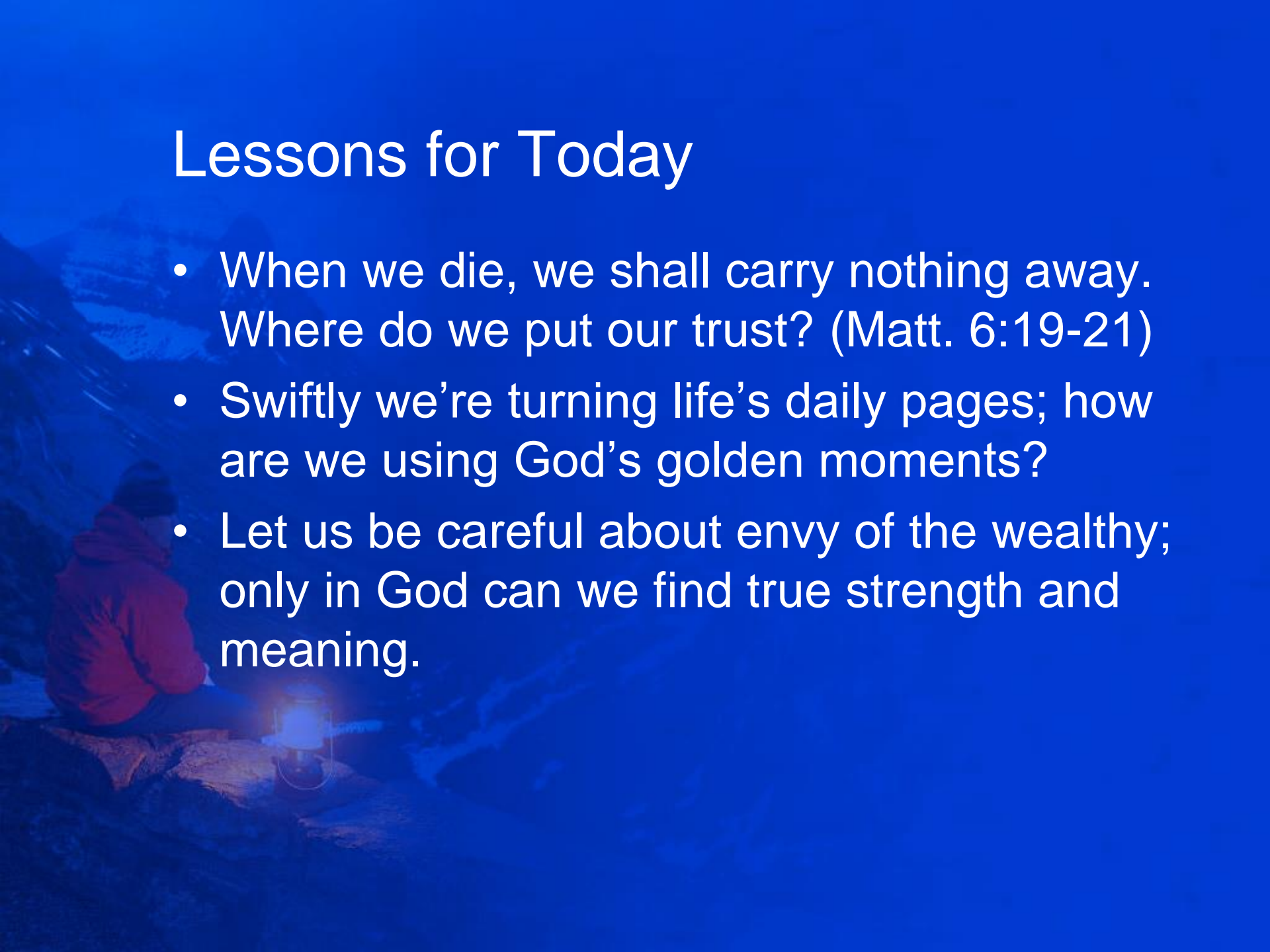
Instructional Psalms – Views of Life

Instructional Psalms – Views of Life

- Some of the didactic (or instructional) psalms discuss various aspects of life.
- The psalmist may make general observations about riches, the wicked, or the fleeting nature of our lives.
- May even question why?
- Nothing wrong with asking “why?” as long as we do not despair in doing so; “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mk. 9:24)
- “Questioning God from a humble willingness to overcome our doubts builds faith.”
(John Kilgore)

Lessons for Today

- When we die, we shall carry nothing away. Where do we put our trust? (Matt. 6:19-21)
- Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages; how are we using God's golden moments?
- Let us be careful about envy of the wealthy; only in God can we find true strength and meaning.



Instructional Psalms – Views of Life

- Psalm 14
 - The world, in general, is godless and corrupt
 - God will be with the righteous but stands opposed to the wicked
- Psalm 39
 - Man is but vapor; life is short
 - Every man walks about like a shadow
 - They busy themselves in vain
 - Heaps up riches, but for who ultimately?
 - Life is short – it is as nothing before God

Instructional Psalms – Views of Life

- Psalm 49
 - Those who are rich have no true advantage when it comes to the things that truly matter
 - Can't redeem his brother with a ransom
 - They die and leave their wealth to others
 - The godless man is no better than the beasts that perish
 - The upright shall ultimately have dominion – God will redeem them
- Psalm 53 – much the same as Psalm 14

Instructional Psalms – Views of Life

- Psalm 73

- It seems as though the wicked often prosper
- Can cause one to say being righteous is vain
 - Until ‘I went into the sanctuary of God’ and understood their end
- It is good to draw near to God

- Psalm 90

- Brevity of man’s life
- Need to fear God and number our days – to gain wisdom
- Should make the most of our time on this earth
- Do the works of God

Psalm 14

- Outline

- There are three voices in the psalm, each followed by a comment
- The fool, 1a
 - Comment, 1b,c,d
- The Lord, 2-4
 - Comment, 5
- Israel, 7a,b
 - Comment 7c
- Conclusion drawn, 5-6

Psalm 14

- V. 1
 - A general observation about the fool
 - Their lives make them practical atheists and godless, whether they admit as much or not
 - Seems as though all of them are corrupt and doing that which is evil
- V. 2
 - God looking down from His throne upon the sons of men
 - Observes what men are like
- V. 3
 - What He sees
 - So many are corrupt; have turned their back on God
 - It's as if the whole world has gone this way (see Gen. 6)

Psalm 14

- V. 4

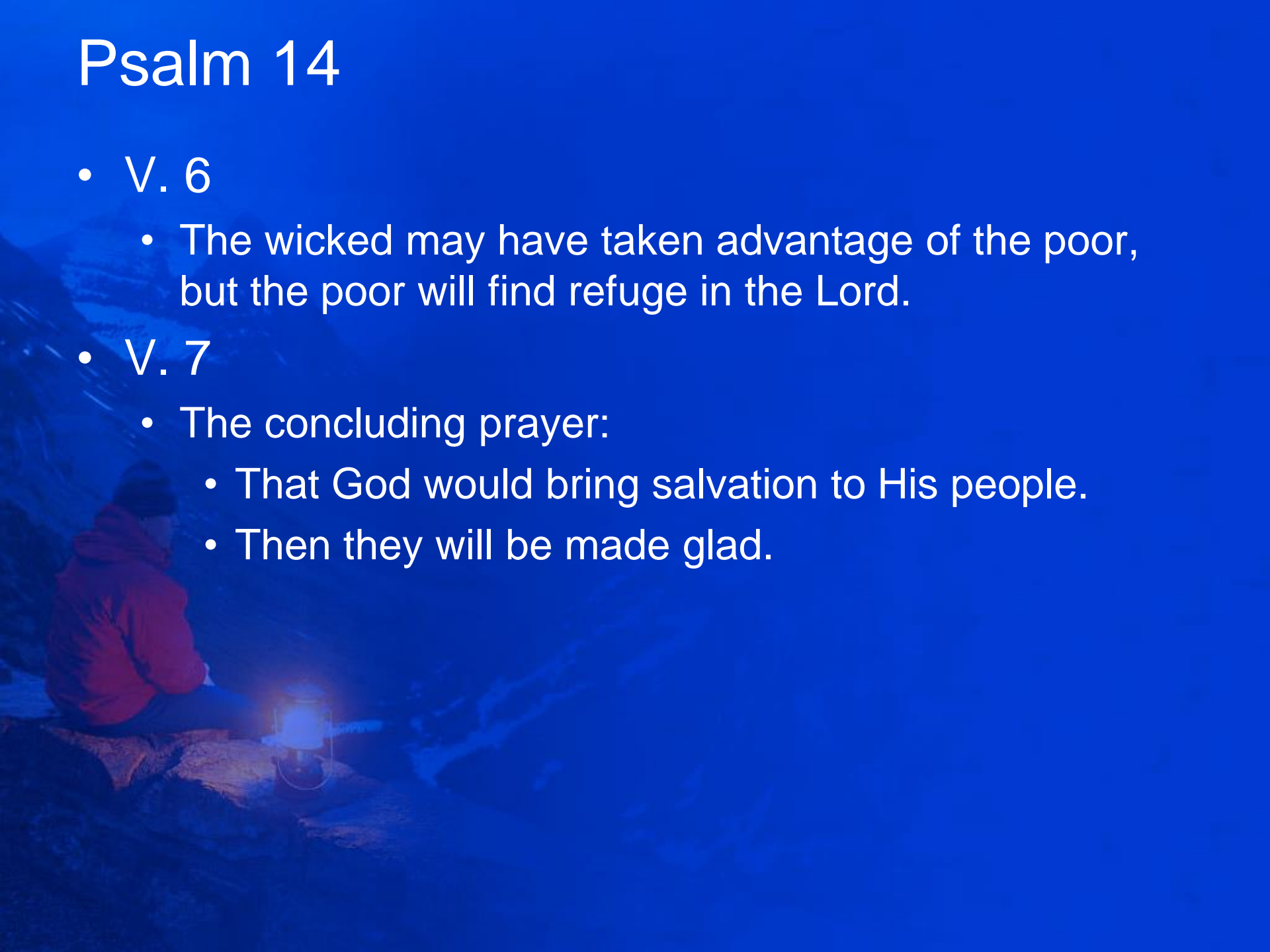
- The Lord ponders the situation
- The prior was hyperbole; here refers to 'my people' (God's people)
- Those who are godless and refuse God take advantage of the godly (my people)
 - So commonplace like the daily activity of eating

- V. 5

- The answer to such godless people - seeing the reality of God's people
 - In fear upon observing God's favor to His own
 - For God is with them

Psalm 14

- V. 6
 - The wicked may have taken advantage of the poor, but the poor will find refuge in the Lord.
- V. 7
 - The concluding prayer:
 - That God would bring salvation to His people.
 - Then they will be made glad.



Psalm 14

To the tune “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

The fool has said within, “There is no God;”
Their deeds are full of sin, corrupt, and flawed;
From heaven God has looked down on them all
To see if any answer to His call.

They have turned aside in what they’ve done;
And none have chosen good, not even one;
They eat the just like bread! Do they not know
That scorning God will fill their hearts with woe?



E-Flat – 2/2 - Mi↑

Psalm 14

To the tune “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

The Lord is with the ones who seek His name,
His mercy will preserve the poor from shame;
When will His grace be seen, His own restored?
Then Jacob will rejoice and bless the Lord.

Psalm 53

- Almost an identical psalm to 14.
- Slight variations of phrasing
- Main difference in v. 5
- Rebukes needless fear by the people of God since God ‘scatters the bones’ of those who are against them, the godless enemies of God’s people
- “Together, therefore, these two psalms exhibit contrasting facets of the same situation: when danger threatens, their enemies have everything to fear and God’s people have nothing to fear.” (J. A. Motyer)

Psalm 49

- Author?
 - Sons of Korah – a prominent group of temple singers
- Time of writing?
 - Unknown
- Message?
 - “Its main theme is that wicked, wealthy men often thrive in this life while the poor and godly often suffer. And it issues a clarion warning to those who trust in riches.”
(Henry E. Payne)

Psalm 49

- Outline

- 1-4: A call to listen and an introduction – to give understanding
- 5-13: There is nothing to fear from the wealthy and their seeming threat because their wealth is fleeting and will not help them in the end
- 14-15: Death is the great equalizer, but the godly will be redeemed from the grave
- 16-19: Again emphasizing that there is nothing to fear from the rich, they have no hope in the end
- 20: Those who do not understand this, are no better than the beasts

Psalm 49

- Outline

- 1-4: A call to listen and an introduction – to give understanding
 - An unusual introduction; a proverb and riddle
- 5-13: There is nothing to fear from the wealthy and their seeming threat because their wealth is fleeting and will not help them in the end
 - 5: Only natural to see the wicked and wealthy people prospering in this world's goods many times
 - Can create fear and uncertainty
 - 6-9: Money will do them no good when it comes time to die
 - They cannot redeem a soul with it
 - Matt. 16:24-26

Psalm 49

- Outline

- 5-13: There is nothing to fear from the wealthy and their seeming threat because their wealth is fleeting and will not help them in the end
 - Vv. 10-13: The wise and the fool alike perish; they leave their wealth to someone else
 - Put their names on their estates to provide a lasting testimony to their greatness
 - In the end, no better than the beasts that perish
 - 2 Peter 3:10-12

Psalm 49

- Outline

- 14-15: Death is the great equalizer, but the godly will be redeemed from the grave
- 16-19: Again emphasizing that there is nothing to fear from the rich, they have no hope in the end
 - Do not fear those who are wealthy and powerful – those who the world glorifies
 - Matt. 10:28
- 20: Those who do not understand this, are no better than the beasts
 - One who may be honorable but doesn't understand these things (by implication, does not honor God instead) ... he will perish

Psalm 90

- A psalm of Moses
 - Probably written during the time of the wilderness wanderings
 - Numbers 14:34
- Outline
 - 1-2: a declaration of God's eternal nature; in Him we dwell
 - 3-12: the fleeting, transitory nature of our lives
 - 13-17: prayers that God may redeem us from this transitory life

Psalm 90

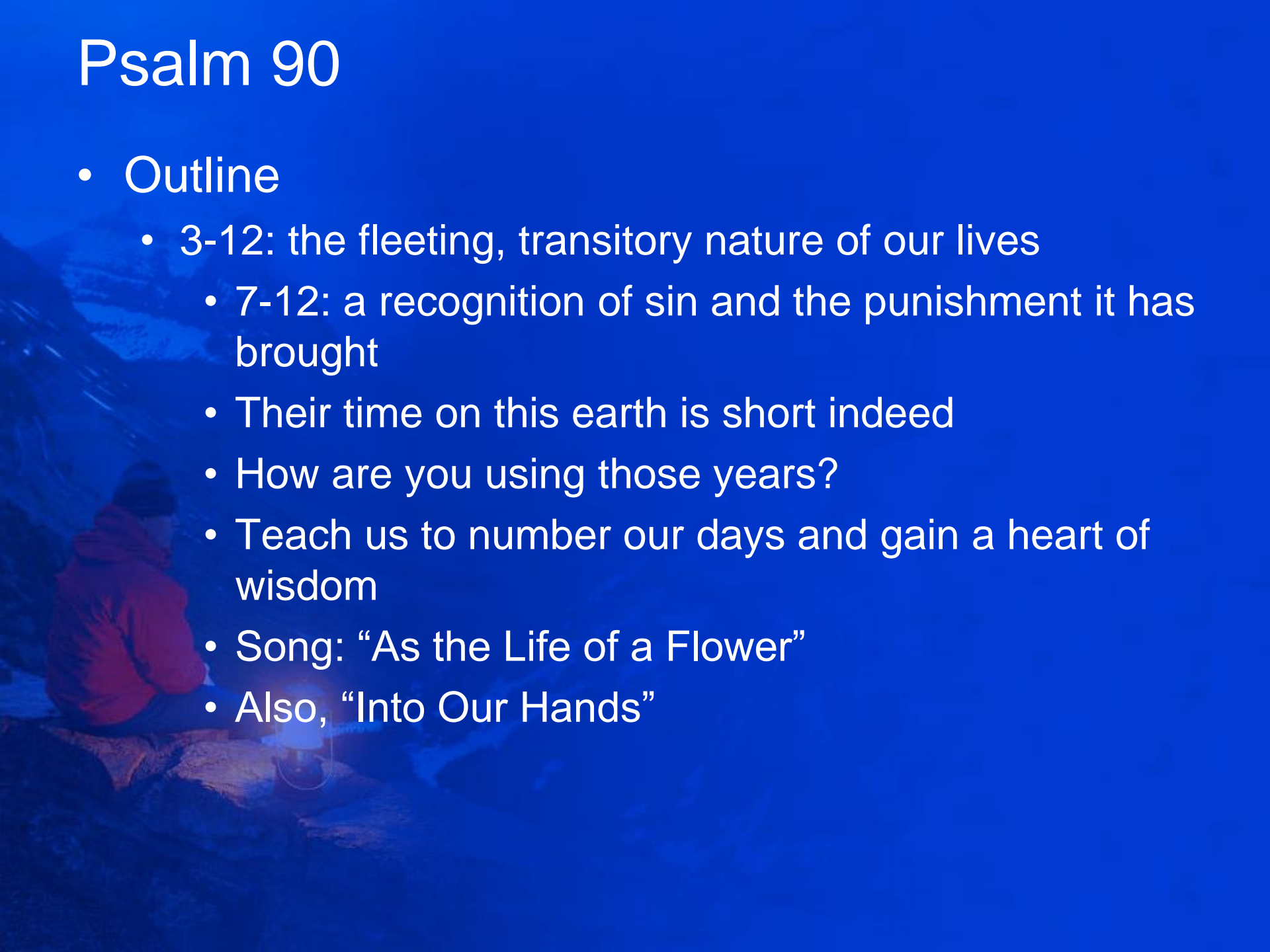
- Outline

- 1-2: a declaration of God's eternal nature; in Him we dwell
- 3-12: the fleeting, transitory nature of our lives
 - 3-6: the brevity of their lives compared to God's eternal nature is painfully real
 - 2 Peter 3:8-9; Isa. 40:6-8
 - "It was thoughts such as these that Moses and his generation, dying in the Wilderness of Paran, were led to ponder. Life flees away; God endures. There does not appear to be any trace of bitterness or of undue pessimism. Just plain, realistic thinking marks these words." (H.C. Leopold)

Psalm 90

- Outline

- 3-12: the fleeting, transitory nature of our lives
 - 7-12: a recognition of sin and the punishment it has brought
 - Their time on this earth is short indeed
 - How are you using those years?
 - Teach us to number our days and gain a heart of wisdom
 - Song: “As the Life of a Flower”
 - Also, “Into Our Hands”



Psalm 90

- Outline

- 13-17: prayers that God may redeem us from this transitory life
 - Return, and have compassion on Your servants
 - Satisfy us with your mercy (covenant faithfulness)
 - Seek a measure of gladness that recompenses for the many years of affliction
 - Make apparent to them the work that He is doing among them
 - There is purpose to it all; help us to see it
 - Make our works to be in keeping with God's

Psalm 73

- A psalm of Asaph
 - Another singer in the Levitical temple service
- Outline
 - 1: a statement of truth
 - 2-3: the subject of the psalm – envy of the wealthy
 - 4-12: his perception of the wealthy
 - 13-17: the psalmist reflects on his feelings and learns the truth after coming into the sanctuary of God
 - 18-20: God's judgment comes upon the wicked
 - 21-24: he was confused but now he is guided by God's counsel
 - 25-28: trusting in God brings understanding and comfort

Lessons for Today

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