



river west church

Eternal God vs. the God Particle

Psalm 90

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Moses Meets the “Higgs-Boson”

Last Wednesday marked a major milestone in the history of scientific research. Scientists from the CERN particle accelerator in Switzerland announced they had experimentally validated the existence of the “Higgs-Boson,” often referred to as the “God Particle.” The announcement brought full grown men in lab coats to tears; including Peter Higgs, who first postulated the existence of the elusive particle back in the early 60’s.

The particle was originally called: that “God-damned” particle, because it was so elusive that scientists couldn’t find it. But soon it was just referred to as the “God Particle,” because it promised to give an answer to one of the final questions about the nature of the universe. This actually irritated many scientists because they wanted to go on record as saying that this particle had nothing whatsoever to do with God. “This is science not religion,” they reminded us.

But it’s not so easy to set aside the question of God. Especially when you’re dealing with topics like the origin, complexity, and structure of the whole universe! And these questions are not new ones. From ancient times, mankind has been haunted by the same questions. So we shouldn’t be surprised that the Book of Psalms speaks to the questions of creation, time, eternity, and the wonder of our eternal God who transcends all things.

Psalm 90 is an amazing Psalm that extols the eternal nature of God. It is titled, “a psalm of Moses, the man of God.” In this Psalm, Moses echoes the language of the early chapters of Genesis (which he also penned). He speaks of the God who existed “before” the creation of the physical universe. Yes, before the Higgs-Boson, before the so called “God Particle,” there was God!

Gaining a Heart of Wisdom

Psalm 90 extols the grandeur of God. But at the same time, it laments the brevity of our lives in this world. It paints a picture of human life against the backdrop of eternity and leaves us feeling REALLY small. Here Moses recalls the language of Genesis 2 and 3, reminding us that mankind is essentially the “dust of the ground.” Though dust, we have graciously been given life by God. But sin brought judgment and death, so to dust we return.

Psalm 90 is all about perspective, the big picture. It brings a huge dose of humility to our hearts. It calls us to face the immensity of God and eternity; the brevity of our lives and the reality of our sin. It causes us to cling to the hope of God’s grace in Christ and live each day redeeming the time that has been given to us. This is what it means to gain a heart of wisdom in Psalm 90!

God - Our Only True Dwelling Place

Psalm 90 moves our thinking past the brute fact of the creation itself. It focuses our attention on God, the creator, who completely transcends the created order. This is our hope, our confidence, our true home: the eternal, unchanging character of God Himself. The heavens will perish, but God will remain, eternally the same. This is the God of the Gospel, our creator, our judge, our redeemer.

He is our only true dwelling place, in a world of protons, quarks, and “Higgs-Bosons” swirling like a live wire in the universe.

Today, as we take a journey through the text of Psalm 90, let's open our hearts and minds to be challenged, stretched, and overwhelmed with the majesty of God and the goodness of the Gospel in Christ!