

Study Guide for March 18th, 2012. Soul Searching Songs: But a Breath: Psalm 39

Introduction: When are you especially aware of the brevity of life? What is the benefit of realizing that you are a stranger on this earth? (See Heb. 11:13-16 & I Pet. 2:11-12)

A. Guarded and Seething: (vs. 1-3)

1. What pledge did the Psalmist make? (See Ps. 141:3, Pr. 10:19, 17:28, & Js. 1:26)
2. What happened inside the Psalmist when he tries to do this? What does he learn?
3. When have you become aware of a tumult within your soul? How did you react?

B. Asking yet Anguished: (vs. 4-6)

1. Who does the Psalmist address? What specifically does he ask from God?
2. What phrases are used in the following passages to highlight the brevity of life?
 - a) Eccles. 2:17-23:
 - b) Luke 12:13-21:
 - c) James 4:13-17:
3. Why is it important to have a clear understanding of the brevity of life?

C. Desperate yet Depending: (vs. 7-8)

1. Write out vs. 7 and reflect upon it. What do you “hope in” other than God?
2. Reflect on vs. 8. What is the Psalmist concern? What if God doesn’t save him?

A’. Silent and Seeing: (vs. 9)

What is different about the silence here (vs. 9) than earlier (vs. 1-3)? What does he see?

B’. Buffeted and Bewildered: (vs. 10-11)

1. What has the Psalmist come to realize about how God deals with his people?
2. How does God use the moth? What can the moth not reach? (Matt. 6:19-21)

C’. Precarious yet Praying: (vs. 12-13)

1. How would you describe the Psalmist’s condition? What does he ask God for?
2. Compare the condition and requests of Job. (Job 7:16-19, 10:20-22, & 14:1-6)
3. What is the Psalmist’s hope beyond the grave? What is your hope? (John 14:1-3)