



# FOR A MOMENT

**T**he Venerable Bede, (673-735), an English monk, scholar and church historian, tells us of the argument of a heathen thane, a chief, to persuade his king and his fellow country men, to study the Bible. His argument ran thus:

*The present life of man, O King, may be likened to what often happens when thou art sitting at supper with thy thanes and nobles in winter-time. A fire blazes in the hearth and warms the chamber; outside rages a storm of wind and snow; a sparrow flies in at one door of thy hall, and quickly passes out at the other.*

*For a moment and while it is within, it is unharmed by the wintry blast, but this brief season of happiness is over when it returns to that wintry blast whence it came, and vanishes from thy sight.*

*Such is the brief life of man: we know not what went before it, and we are utterly ignorant as to what shall follow it. If, therefore, this new doctrine contains anything more certain, it justly deserves to be followed.*

The lives of men are, indeed, short and it is a wise course of action to study the words of wisdom and truth contained in Scripture. Moses, in Psalm 90, ponders the brevity and uncertainty of life with great depth of feeling. It is a Psalm often read at open grave sides, and plumbs the emotions of the soul.

*For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are*



## THE MERCIFUL EYE

*threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. (Psalm 90:9-10 KJV).*

And after we fly away, what then?

It is my prayer that the stories contained in this book will provide food for thought with regard to what is important in life and to what is the purpose of our brief sojourn here on earth. For we travel from time to eternity.