

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 9:1-20 (NASB)

¹ I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

² I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

³ When my enemies turn back, They stumble and perish before You.

⁴ For You have maintained my just cause; You have sat on the throne judging righteously.

⁵ You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

⁶ The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins, And You have uprooted the cities; The very memory of them has perished.

⁷ But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,

⁸ And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

⁹ The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble;

¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

¹¹ Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; Declare among the peoples His deeds.

¹² For He who requires blood remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

¹³ Be gracious to me, O LORD; See my affliction from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴ That I may tell of all Your praises, That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.

¹⁵ The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught.

¹⁶ The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. Higgaiion Selah.

¹⁷ The wicked will return to Sheol, *Even* all the nations who forget God.

¹⁸ For the needy will not always be forgotten, Nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.

¹⁹ Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged before You.

²⁰ Put them in fear, O LORD; Let the nations know that they are but men. Selah.

Psalm 9: God Judges Fairly

Psalm 9 is a *mixture* of **praise** and **imprecation** (that is, seeking God's justice).

Verses 1–2 describe praise as an act of the will. “

Psalm 9:1-2 (NASB)

¹ I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

² I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

We can rejoice in God despite the situation. David exulted and rejoiced in God his Savior who had done great things for him. David also exulted in the marvelous works which would follow. The enemy would be destroyed, but God and His throne would “*endure forever*” (verse 7).

Psalm 9:1-20 (NASB)

⁷ But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,

Verses 3–6 recall the past. The key verbs are in the past tense, recalling what God has already done.

Psalm 9:3-6 (NASB)

³ When my enemies turn back, They stumble and perish before You.

⁴ For You have maintained my just cause; You have sat on the throne judging righteously.

⁵ You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

⁶ The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins, And You have uprooted the cities; The very memory of them has perished.

The principle to learn is that we can rehearse past victories to give us courage for the future. God has been faithful in the past, so we can depend on Him for the future. He has turned back enemies (verse 3); He has upheld my right and my cause (verse 4); He has rebuked and destroyed (verse 5); He has destroyed cities and the memory of the wicked (verse 6). What has God done in your past that you can remember when faced with an uncertain future? Know that you can depend on God.

Verses 7–10 speak of a hope for the future. The verbs “shall” and “will” occur here. God is on His throne; all is well with the world. He will judge. He is trustworthy (verse 10).

Psalm 9:7-10 (NASB)

⁷ But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,

⁸ And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

⁹ The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble;

¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

God never abandons His own. He does not promise escape from hardship but He does promise His presence in the trouble.

It is because God rules the nations and the people of the earth in righteousness that He will prove Himself a refuge for the oppressed. It is to vindicate the oppressed that God rules the nations, and His purpose is to restrain sin and crime and to break the oppressor in pieces. They who know God's name and know Him as a righteous ruler will put their trust in Him. History shows that God has never forsaken those who have sought Him for help against the enemy. A good biblical illustration of the righteous justice of God snaring the wicked in the work of their own hands is found in the book of Esther. Haman prepared some gallows for Mordecai, the Jew. But it was Haman who was hung instead of Mordecai—a miracle of God's protection and righteous judgment ([verse 15](#)).

Psalm 9:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught.

From reading the Psalms, we understand that to exclude God from our thoughts implies that He is neither esteemed nor valued as the all-sufficient and holy One; that He is neither feared nor are His laws and commandments followed or regarded as important for our daily living. Meditation and Selah (to pause) are important recommendations ([verse 16](#)).

Psalm 9:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. Higgsion Selah.