

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(38)

## Psalm 9

### *Praise the Lord for His Triumph Over All Who Trouble You (All the Wicked), 9:1-20*

**A Palm of Thanksgiving for God's Justice**

**For the Choir Director; on Muth-labben. A Psalm of David**

**Psalm 9:1-20 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> "I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

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

<sup>3</sup> When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before You.

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

<sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the nations, you have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

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

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>13</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD; See my affliction from those who hate me, you who lift me up from the gates of death,

<sup>14</sup> That I may tell of all Your praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.

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

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

<sup>17</sup> The wicked will return to Sheol, *even* all the nations who forget God.

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

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

**<sup>20</sup> Put them in fear, O LORD; Let the nations know that they are but men. Selah.”**

**(Psalm 9:1-20) Introduction:** many studies have been conducted to determine the power of praise on people. Positive words have been proven to have a great impact in the home and in the workplace. Some studies, however, have produced conflicting information. Experts have concluded that too much praise produces arrogance, laziness, and fear in children.

While we cannot be sure how much praise is too much for us to receive, there is no question about the power found in our praising the Lord. Previous psalms teach the power found in pouring our hearts out to the Lord in prayer. [Psalm 9](#) teaches the power of exalting God for who He is and for what He has done for us.

David is seen erupting in wholehearted praise to the Lord even while he is in the midst of battling fierce enemies, enemies that had dragged him to the door of death.

The enemies in this psalm are seen from three perspectives:

⇒**Personal**—David viewed the individuals who were attacking him.

⇒**National**—David viewed the nations that rose up against Israel.

⇒**Eschatological** (end times)—David viewed the wicked as the enemies of God and His sovereign purposes, as enemies who had launched a never-ending assault on God, His righteousness, and His truth. At the end of time, God will triumph over all these enemies.

David also wrote from three perspectives of time:

⇒He considered the faithfulness of God in the *past*.

⇒He considered the foes facing Israel in the *present*.

⇒He considered the final fulfillment of this psalm in the *future*.

The specific occasion of the ninth psalm is unknown. Some commentators speculate that the term *muthlabben* (“**death of the son**” or “**to die for the son**”) may give insight to its historical setting. Most scholars think this was the title of an existing song, and David was ordering the director of music to perform the psalm to its tune. Some speculate that this was another song composed by David, perhaps at Absalom’s death ([2 Samuel 18:33](#)). Hebrew tradition claimed it to be a song celebrating the slaying of Goliath.

**2 Samuel 18:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> “The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus, he said as he walked, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

This is, *Praise the Lord for His Triumph Over All Who Trouble You (All the Wicked)*, [Psalm 9:1-20](#).

1. **Praise the Lord with all your heart (vv. 1-10).**
2. **Challenge others to praise the Lord (vv. 11-12).**
3. **Pray for the Lord’s mercy and deliverance (vv. 13-14).**

4. **Declare the truth of God's justice (vv. 15-18).**
5. **Cry out for God's justice and judgment to be executed (vv. 19-20).**

1. **(Psalm 9:1-10) Praise the Lord with all your heart.**

**Psalm 9:1-10 (NASB)**

- <sup>1</sup> "I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.
- <sup>2</sup> I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
- <sup>3</sup> When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before You.
- <sup>4</sup> For You have maintained my just cause; You have sat on the throne judging righteously.
- <sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the nations, you have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.
- <sup>6</sup> The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins, And You have uprooted the cities; The very memory of them has perished.
- <sup>7</sup> But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,
- <sup>8</sup> And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble;
- <sup>10</sup> And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Nothing less than whole-hearted praise is worthy of the Lord. Here, at the very beginning, David declares his purpose for this psalm: it is a praise song to the Lord. The Hebrews viewed the *heart* as the seat of thought. David fully engaged his mind in his worship. His meditation on God's faithfulness, righteousness, and power produced eight reasons why the Lord deserves our total praise.

By passionately praising the Lord at a very difficult time in his life, David provides a powerful example for us. His enemies were in furious pursuit of him, so much so that he felt he stood at the very door of death ([v. 13](#)).

**Psalm 9:13 (NASB)**

- <sup>13</sup> "Be gracious to me, O LORD; See my affliction from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death."

Yet, in the midst of life-threatening danger, David focused his mind on God. When he meditated on the Lord rather than his problems, his heavy heart overflowed with praise. In so doing, he teaches an important lesson: in our most perilous trials, we should take our eyes off of our problems and fix them on the Lord.

**a. Because of God's marvelous works down through the ages ([v. 1](#)).**

**Psalm 9:1 (NASB)**

- <sup>1</sup> "I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders."

Whenever trouble surrounds us, we should take a stroll through the past. Every one of us can rehearse his or her personal history and testify to God's faithfulness. Time and again, when we have asked Him to meet some need, we have witnessed the *marvelous works* of God in our lives. He met our need.

Furthermore, world history records that God has time and again performed awesome feats for His beloved people. His Holy Word is a divine record of His miraculous deeds. When we open our Bibles, our eyes behold amazing things ([Psalm 119:18](#)).

**Psalm 119:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law."

We thrill at the parting of the Red Sea, the slaying of Goliath, the fire on Elijah's altar, the triumph of the faithful Hebrew young men in the fiery furnace, Daniel in the Lion's Den, the miracles of Jesus, the signs of the apostles...the list goes on and on and is lengthened by the experiences of God's dear children today. We must not keep silent about God's wondrous works in our lives. Like David, we must dedicate ourselves to spreading the supernatural wonders of our omnipotent God, to declaring His amazing deeds.

**Matthew 6:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things [having food, clothing] will be added to you."

**Acts 4:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> "For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

**Philippians 4:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

**Exodus 3:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> "So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go."

**Joshua 3:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> "Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

**Job 9:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> "Who does great things, unfathomable, And wondrous works without number."

**b. Because of God's wonderful name: He is the "Most High" ([v. 2](#)).**

**Psalm 9:2 (NASB)**

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

Trouble is like a dam that blocks the joy of the Lord from flowing through us. But when we meditate on who God is, unspeakable joy breaks through and floods our souls. David was in great danger: he stood at the very gates of death ([v. 13](#)).

**Psalm 9:13 (NASB)**

**<sup>13</sup> “Be gracious to me, O LORD; See my affliction from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death.”**

But he was determined to *rejoice* in God. Why? Because he understood who God is, and his understanding stirred him to praise the name of the *Most High (Elyon)*. This name expresses the unshakeable truth that God is *supreme*, that He is *over all*.

Everybody and everything is inferior to Him...

1. every enemy
2. every liar, deceiver, slanderer, and destroyer
3. every infirmity, sickness and disease
4. every family problem
5. every financial struggle
6. every personal weakness
7. every demonic force, including Satan himself
8. every temptation
9. even death

God is greater than any trouble or problem we face. Note this: David’s joy was not in the victory he had been given, but in the God who had given him the victory. The teaching of these two verses is important: we are to testify of God’s marvelous works, but we are to celebrate *God Himself*. “We do not worship the works; we worship the Worker.”

**Psalm 83:18 (NASB)**

**<sup>18</sup> “That they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.”**

**Psalm 97:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup> “For You are the LORD Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.”**

**c. Because God turns back and overthrows those (all enemies) who cause you trouble (v. 3).**

**Psalm 9:3 (NASB)**

**<sup>3</sup> “When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before You.”**

Remembering God’s wondrous works in the past produced strong faith in David for the present. He did not petition God to *turn back* his enemies; in faith, he declared that his foes would retreat when God showed up and faced them down on his behalf. Picture David’s enemies charging him at full speed with their weapons drawn. Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, our warrior God appears and steps into their path. They drop their weapons, turn, and flee as fast as they can in terror. This is the scene David describes in this verse.

The Lord’s divine presence is the great defense of His people. It ignites our spirits with courage and death-defying boldness. Consider Moses, who relied on the

presence of the Lord to enable him to lead the children of Israel into the promised land ([Exodus 33:14-15](#)).

[Exodus 33:14-15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> “And He said, “My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest.”

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here.”

Or David, who marched fearlessly through the valley of the shadow of death because He knew the Lord was with him ([Psalm 23:4](#)).

[Psalm 23:4 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Infused with the confidence of God’s unfailing presence, we can face whatever obstacles or opponents stand in our way. With Him before us, behind us, and beside us, we can do everything our Lord has commanded of us ([Philippians 4:13](#)).

[Philippians 4:13 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

We can even fulfill the Great Commission—carry the gospel to our neighbors and to the world—because we do not go alone ([Matthew 28:20](#)).

[Matthew 28:20 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> “Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”