

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(39)

## 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."

**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."

**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."

**d. Because God upholds your right and cause (v. 4).**

**Psalm 9:4 (NASB)**

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

We can be assured that God is on our side *only* when we are on His. The NASB and ESV offer this translation of the first statement of this verse: "*For you have maintained my just cause.*" David was confident that he had conducted himself righteously, in full obedience to God's commandments. He also acknowledged that God had always acted consistently with His own character.

**First**, the Lord has always *sat* on His *throne*; He has never shirked His duty as judge of the universe. He never vacates the bench of divine justice. He never fails to rule on any case.

**Second**, the Lord has always vindicated the righteous and pronounced judgment on the wicked. David had witnessed this in his own life and experience. He knew that God's verdict is always right, that no cases are ever appealed in God's courtroom. His judgments are always just and righteous.

**e. Because God rules and judges righteously (vv. 5-6).**

**Psalm 9:5-6 (NASB)**

<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."

Because He rules and judges righteously, God has *rebuked the heathen*, the *nations* that have risen up against Him and His people.

He has *destroyed the wicked*. He has *blotted out their name*, erased them from the face of the earth. Consider the civilizations of ancient history that rose up against His people. Where are the Philistines? Where are the Assyrians? Where are the Babylonians?

They are perished, gone, ground into the dust of the earth by the feet of the **Lord Jehovah**, the righteous and faithful God of Israel's covenant. Archaeologists occasionally uncover relics of these civilizations. Long forgotten by earth's inhabitants, they are no more. Other governments known by other names now occupy the land that ancient, oppressive nations once inhabited upon the earth.

**f. Because God reigns forever: In contrast to the nations, He has established His rule forever (v. 7).**

**Psalm 9:7 (NASB)**

**<sup>7</sup>“But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment.”**

Nations come and go. Governments rise and fall. Kings and rulers live and die. The only constant on every single page of world history is God. History is *His story*. *Endure (yashab)* means to sit down and remain seated. The Lord was on the throne before the earth ever existed. He has remained seated on His throne for every moment of every day of every century of history. He will be on the throne when this earth and the heavens are ultimately destroyed by fire (**2 Peter 3:10**).

**2 Peter 3:10 (NASB)**

**<sup>10</sup>“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”**

Throughout eternity, He will rule over a new earth and heaven, a universe where sin and unrighteousness will never be known, inhabited exclusively by all who have been redeemed (**2 Peter 3:14**; **Revelation 21:1-5**).

**2 Peter 3:14 (NASB)**

**<sup>14</sup>“Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.”**

**Revelation 21:1-5 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup>“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.**

**<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,**

**<sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

**<sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”**

**g. Because God will judge the world and govern the people with justice (fairly and righteously) (v. 8).**

**Psalm 9:8 (NASB)**

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

We can rest assured that, unfailingly and without exception, God will execute justice on the *world* (*tebel*)—the globe itself, including the atmosphere and heavens.

There is not a spot on the face of the earth where God’s justice will not ultimately prevail. *Minister judgment* (*diyn*) literally means to sail direct or follow a straight course. God will never veer or deviate from fairly judging the world’s *people* (*leowm*)—people groups, communities, tribes, nations.

The New Testament teaches us that this verse is referring to God’s future, final day of judgment. Paul cited it in his sermon to the superstitious people of Athens ([Acts 17:31](#)).

**Acts 17:31 (NASB)**

<sup>31</sup> “Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

**h. Because God is a refuge in the time of trouble (vv. 9-10).**

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

<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.

God not only sees and will judge the wicked, but He also sees and will personally care for their victims, those who are *oppressed* by the wicked ([v. 9](#)).

**Psalm 9:9 (NASB)**

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

He sees the suffering of His sheep, and He hears their desperate cries. The Lord is their *refuge* (*misgob*); that is, their shelter, fortress, stronghold, high tower.

“In the metaphor here, when invading armies ravage the land, the oppressed flee to the Lord, their stronghold.”

God’s people know Him by His personal, covenant name, the great name **Yahweh** (*Jehovah*) or Lord ([v. 10](#)).

**Psalm 9:10 (NASB)**

<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.”

The godly *trust* (**batach**)—feel safe and secure—because they know His name and all that it means. *Know* (**yada**) does not mean to know intellectually or to be aware of. It means to know personally, to know intimately, to know by experience. We know the Lord’s record of faithfulness: He has never—not one time in history—*forsaken* His people. When we seek Him, He will be found. When we inquire of Him, He will answer us. When we flee to Him for refuge, He will shelter us. When we depend on Him, He will provide for us. When we need Him, He will be there.

As we experience more and more trouble, our experience with the Lord increases, and, therefore, our trust in Him increases.

*“The better God is known the more He is trusted. Those who know Him to be a God of infinite wisdom will trust Him further than they can see Him.”* ([Job 35:14](#));

**Job 35:14 (NASB)**

**<sup>14</sup>“How much less when you say you do not behold Him, the case is before Him, and you must wait for Him!”**

*“Those who know him to be a God of almighty power will trust him when creature-confidences fail and they have nothing else to trust to”* ([2 Chronicles 20:12](#));

**2 Chronicles 20:12 (NASB)**

**<sup>12</sup>“O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”**

*“And those who know him to be a God of infinite grace and goodness will trust him though he slay them”* ([Job 13:15](#)).

**Job 13:15 (NASB)**

**<sup>15</sup>“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless, I will argue my ways before Him.”**

This is exactly what Scripture says:

**Romans 5:3-8 (NASB)**

**<sup>3</sup>“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;**

**<sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;**

**<sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

**<sup>6</sup>For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

**<sup>7</sup>For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.**

**<sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**



When we persevere through the trials of life, we learn by experience the faithful character of God. This strengthens our hope as we face the future.

As Scripture says above, God demonstrated His love for us by giving His Son for our sins when we were His enemies. How much more will He be faithful to us as His redeemed, dear children ([Romans 8:32-39](#))! This is the source of our security. This is what it means to trust Him.

**Romans 8:32-39 (NASB)**

<sup>32</sup> “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

<sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

<sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Thought 1.** Meditate fully on every morsel of truth in this passage. It reveals much about God. How can we keep from singing His praise when we ponder His uncompromising commitment to His character and His unfailing faithfulness to us? We—all believers—are the recipients of His covenant of grace.

**1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

**2 Timothy 2:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

**Psalms 26:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> “In whose hands is a wicked scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes.”

**Psalms 26:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> “My foot stands on a level place; In the congregations I shall bless the LORD.”

**Psalms 66:1-4 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;

<sup>2</sup> Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.

<sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You.

<sup>4</sup> “All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.” Selah.



**Psalm 102:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> **“But You, O LORD, abide forever, And Your name to all generations.”**

**Thought 2.** As we walk throughout life, we can depend on God in every circumstance of every day. Remember, God has not promised that we will never face trials and trouble. In fact, He warns us that, when we live in full obedience to Him, we can expect problems and persecution.

But God promises us these wonderful resources:

⇒ **First**, God promises His steadfast presence

**Hebrews 13:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> **“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.”**

⇒ **Second**, God promises His superseding power

**Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> **“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”**

⇒ **Third**, God promises His sufficient grace

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> **“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”**