

Preaching the Psalms Series

(40)

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)

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. Higgsion 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 9:1-20) 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)

³³ “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)

- 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.

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)

- 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."

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)

- ¹ "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)

² "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)

³ "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)

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

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

Psalm 9:5-6 (NASB)

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."

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

Psalm 9:7 (NASB)

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

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

Psalm 9:8 (NASB)

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

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

Psalm 9:9-10 (NASB)

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.

2. (Psalm 9:11-12) Challenge others to praise the Lord.

Psalm 9:11-12 (NASB)

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.”

David, as the leader of his nation, called the people of Israel to sing forth the praises of the Lord. They knew the Lord and benefited from a relationship with Him. Throughout their history, God had done wondrous things for their nation.

The Lord had even dwelled in their midst in *Zion* (Jerusalem). This is where the Ark of the Covenant, the very symbol of His presence rested. Zion was His city, the place where His temple would later be built.

People (**am**) refers to the people of Israel. This word is used of people who are united by some common tie: members of the same family, community, or nation, or are sharers of the same privileges. It stands in contrast to the nations or peoples of the world (**v. 8**).

Psalm 9:8 (NASB)

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

David is decreeing that the amazing works of the Lord are to be constantly remembered and celebrated among the Hebrews. Songs of praise to the Lord should be continuously sung throughout the land.

a. Because He executes justice (avenges blood) and remembers the wrongdoer (**v. 12**).

Psalm 9:12 (NASB)

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

Psalm 9:12 (KJV)

¹² “When he maketh **inquisition for blood**, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.”

David calls for national praise for a specific reason: God avenges all injustices inflicted upon His people. “**Inquisition for blood**” refers to the official investigation of murder, to see who was guilty of the crime... There was no police force in Israel, but a near kinsman could avenge the murder of a family member.” The Israelites were related to God by a covenant of blood.

God Himself faithfully stands as the avenger of all violence against the nation of Israel.

b. Because He does not ignore the needy (v. 12).

Psalm 9:12 (NASB)

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

Psalm 9:12 (KJV)

¹² “When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: **he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.**”

The Lord cannot *forget* (**shakakh**)—erase from his memory or attention—the cries of the *humble*: “**those bowed down by their sorrows.**” The voices of those whose oppression is a greater burden than they can bear are ever before the Lord. Their cries will echo in His ears until He brings justice upon their oppressors. The direct application is to His chosen people of Israel.

Thought 1. Our world today should pay close attention to these verses. David proclaimed God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham, the founder of the Hebrew nation (**Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 13:14-18; Genesis 17:4-8**). God has never broken or annulled the covenant, and it awaits its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ at His return to earth.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NASB)

¹ “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 13:14-18 (NASB)

¹⁴ “The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

¹⁵ for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.”

¹⁶ “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.”

¹⁷ “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”

¹⁸ “Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.”

Genesis 17:4-8 (NASB)

⁴ “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

⁷ I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

⁸ I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

History books repeatedly proclaim the doom of those who have risen up against Israel and the Jews. Those who oppose Israel today should not be so foolish as to think they will be any different. Yet attacks upon the people of the Abrahamic Covenant will continue and even escalate as the coming of Christ approaches. Prophecy declares that the final oppressor of the Jews will be the Antichrist, who will persecute them in a way they have never before known. But they will have an ultimate champion, Jesus Christ Himself, the Messiah they rejected. He will return from heaven, deliver them from their enemies, and sit upon the throne of David for eternity.

Matthew 24:15-21 (NASB)

¹⁵ “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

¹⁷ Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

¹⁸ Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

²⁰ But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”

Romans 11:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”

27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (NASB)

1 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Zechariah 14:1-3 (NASB)

1 “Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.”

Thought 2. Through the blood of the New Covenant, the church—the blessed bride of Christ—is also the recipient of God’s blessing, protection, and justice.

Note the teaching of [Hebrews 12:22-24](#):

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NASB)

22 “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.”

Jesus warned that the church would be persecuted ([John 15:18-20](#)).

John 15:18-20 (NASB)

18 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

Every day across the earth, fellow believers lay down their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ. Their blood cries out to the Lord for justice ([Revelation 6:9-11](#)).

Revelation 6:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ “When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*”

When the last martyr has been slain, Jesus Christ will return not only to avenge Israel, but also to destroy all those who persecuted the church. Their eternal verdict will be pronounced individually at the Great White Throne Judgment. All their violent sins will be read before the Lord, and they will be justly and appropriately sentenced to eternal damnation according to their deeds ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

Revelation 20:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹ “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”