

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(41)

## 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."

**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."

**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."

**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."

**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.

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

[Psalm 9:11-12 \(NASB\)](#)

<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.”

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

[Psalm 9:12 \(NASB\)](#)

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

[Psalm 9:12 \(KJV\)](#)

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

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

[Psalm 9:12 \(NASB\)](#)

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

[Psalm 9:12 \(KJV\)](#)

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

3. ([Psalm 9:13-14](#)) Pray for the Lord’s mercy and deliverance.

[Psalm 9:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

<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,

<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.”

David transitioned from declaring God’s praise to delivering his petition to the Lord. He asked the Lord to look upon him and consider the threats of his enemies. As he lifted up God’s faithfulness and righteous character, he was confident that God would lift him up from his current crisis. He beseeched the Lord to show him *mercy*—to stoop down and help him when he could not help himself.

a. Ask Him to deliver you from persecution and death ([v. 13](#)).

[Psalm 9:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

<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.”

David’s words paint a moving picture of his desperate situation and his need for the Lord’s help. Cities in the ancient East were enclosed within protective walls. Gates allowed entrance to and exit from the city. David depicted death as a great walled city, one which he did not wish to enter. He knew that if he were forced through those

gates, he would never escape. These were “**gates which opened for entrance but not for exit.**” He described himself as lying at those gruesome gates, helplessly beaten down and too weak to resist those who were dragging him into the city of death. Acknowledging that he was powerless to flee, David called upon the Lord to rescue him from those who hated him, to lift him up and carry him away from the door of death.

**b. The reason: That you may proclaim God’s praises and rejoice in your salvation (v. 14).**

**Psalm 9:14 (NASB)**

<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.**”

David asked the Lord to carry him from the gates of death back to the *gates of the daughter of Zion*, the place where he lived and served the Lord as king. *Daughter of Zion* refers to the people of Jerusalem. “**In Jewish culture, cities were often regarded as mothers of their people, and their inhabitants as sons and daughters.**”

Citizens gathered at the city gates to transact business, to receive news, and to fellowship. Very simply, David was asking for a story to tell at the gates of Jerusalem. He wanted to openly share how the Lord had snatched him away from the door of death and delivered him back home to Zion. He vowed not only to rejoice inwardly of the Lord’s deliverance, but to publicly praise the glorious salvation of the Lord.

**Thought 1.** The word for *show forth or declare* (**saphar**) means to inscribe a record of (see **previous outlines and notes—Ps. 2:7** for more discussion). Our lives should be records of the Lord’s faithfulness and help. It is important to keep either a mental or written account of God’s salvation and all the wonderful things He has done for us. We should be always testifying of His grace and goodness to us.

David asked God to deliver him so that he might add another great victory to the list of God’s feats on his behalf. He wanted one more reason to declare God’s wondrous grace. David also recognized this sober fact: if he entered the gates of death he would never again have opportunity to praise the Lord (**Psalm 6:5**).

**Psalm 6:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “**For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?**”

He wanted to live so he could continue to praise and bear witness for the Lord. This should be the great purpose of our lives as well.

**1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

**Psalms 30:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.”

**Psalms 86:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “For Your lovingkindness toward me is great, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”

**Psalms 118:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> “I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the LORD.”