

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(43)

## 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.”

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.”

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.”

4. (**Psalm 9:15-18**) Declare the truth of God’s justice.

**Psalm 9:15-18 (NASB)**

<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.

**a. Fact 1—the nations reap what they sow (suffer retribution), the very evil they inflict on others (v. 15).**

**Psalm 9:15 (NASB)**

<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.”

**b. Fact 2—people came to know the Lord by His acts of justice: He causes the wicked to trap themselves in their own evil (v. 16).**

**Psalm 9:16 (NASB)**

<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.”

**c. Fact 3—the destiny of the wicked and of the nations that forget God is death (the grave, hell) (vv. 17).**

**Psalm 9:17 (NASB)**

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

**d. Fact 4—the needy and afflicted will have their hope fulfilled: God will not forget them (v. 18).**

**Psalm 9:18 (NASB)**

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

**5. (Psalm 9:19-20) Cry out for God’s justice and judgment to be executed.**

**Psalm 9:19-20 (NASB)**

<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.”

Although David understood that God would judge the ungodly and wicked in the future, He called upon the Lord to intervene in the present. He longed for the Lord to judge evildoers immediately, to stop them before they oppressed and destroyed any other innocent victim.

**a. Cry 1: That man not triumph (v. 19).**

**Psalm 9:19-20 (NASB)**

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

David prayed that the wicked of the world would gain no further victories against the people of God. *Prevail* (**azaz**) emphasizes the fact that every triumph of the wicked energizes them to continue their attacks and oppression.

**b. Cry 2: That the people tremble in fear (v. 20).**

**Psalm 9:20 (NASB)**

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

David prayed that God would strike the wicked immediately. This would cause them to tremble in fear at God’s wrath and retreat or turn back from attacking the Lord’s people.

**c. Cry 3: That the people know their frailty (v. 20).**

**Psalm 9:20 (NASB)**

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

David prayed that God would intervene so the wicked would know that they cannot prevail against the Lord and His people. They would recognize that they are mere mortals, mere flesh and bone, and that it is foolish to try to war against God.

**Thought 1.** We should rest in the justice of God and know that the day will come when He will judge all evildoers. At the same time, however, we should pray for God to intervene in the world today and stop the wickedness that often seems to prevail on earth.

We have a responsibility to withstand evil and, when we have done all we can to withstand it, to continue to stand against it (**Ephesians 6:13**).

**Ephesians 6:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

It is not enough to simply assign all judgment to God and then sit back and allow evil to triumph. We must pray and work and fight to overcome the evil that is so prevalent in our world. We must not forget that we are warriors in the army of the Lord. We should daily clothe ourselves in the armor of God and march into battle against Satan’s forces.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,  
<sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful  
for the destruction of fortresses.”

**Ephesians 6:10-18 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against  
the schemes of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,  
against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the  
spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist  
in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,  
and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

<sup>15</sup> and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE  
GOSPEL OF PEACE;

<sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able  
to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

<sup>17</sup> And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in  
view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

**2 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the  
faith.”

**James 4:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”