

SBC – Nov. 5, 2023

Psalm 9:1-20 (NKJV)

“Praise God for His Judgments”

Intro:

Psalm 9 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. To The Tune of “Death of the Son.” A Psalm of David.

David wrote his Psalms – largely to be sung. David loved to praise and communicate to the Lord in song. We don’t know what “Death of the Son” refers to, but it was evidently a well-known tune in David’s day.

Psalm 9 and 10 may have initially been one Psalm as they are that way in the Septuagint. However, there are also significant differences to argue they are properly two distinct Psalms.

Psalm 9 looks forward to God’s triumph over His enemies – which David also considers to be his enemies. Some think in the background it may have in view David’s victory over Goliath, which then expands out to call for God to triumph over all the wicked nations of the world.

Slide # 1

Psalm 9

Theme: Praise God for His Judgments

- A. Praise God for Dealing with the Enemy – vv. 1-6
- B. Praise God for His Righteous Judgment - vv. 7-8
- C. Praise God for being a Refuge for the oppressed – vv. 9-10
- D. Praise God He remembers His people – vv. 11-12
- E. A Plea for Mercy – vv. 13-14
- F. The Destiny of the Wicked in contrast to God’s People – vv. 15-18
- G. Appeal for God to humble the Nations – vv. 19-20

1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

Here we have four “I wills” of intensive praise. David’s whole heart is in his praise. Charles Spurgeon said, “Half heart is not heart.”

David expressed that his desire was to praise the LORD with his whole heart. This is worship in spirit and in truth. It is HEART worship.

His praise involves telling God's marvelous works. Simply recounting what great things God has done is a wonderful way to praise Him. As the living God He is at work in our lives on a continual basis. His workings are obvious for those who have eyes to see. Yet, it is amazing how God's people often sit around and talk about everything except the great things God has done.

How about starting a conversation this way: What great things have you seen God do? Many professing Christians hardly even pray – no wonder they don't seem to see God at work as He works through prayer. And no wonder they have little to say about God. What a shame that is.

Accompanying David's praise and telling was great joy. Note he was rejoicing in the LORD. We can always find joy in the LORD and it should cause us to sing praises to Him.

And then David ends his 4 "I wills" of praise in addressing God as the "Most High". This emphasizes God's sovereignty over all. He is in control. He is the One responsible for all the wonderful works about which David is full of praise and overjoyed.

3 When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence.

David doesn't name these enemies but he is sure that they are going down before God's presence.

4 For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.

Again, we don't know the specific occasion but David believed that God had intervened on his behalf because of his righteous cause. David views God as sitting on His throne and judging righteously in his favor.

Slide # 2

This shows us that the God of David – that is, the God of the Bible – is not dispassionate regarding right and wrong among men; He is not always neutral in human conflict. – **David Guzik**

Now we do want to be careful with this as people are often quick to claim God is on their side even when He may not be (cf. Josh. 5:13-14). Nevertheless, there are times when the situation is a matter of what is clearly right and wrong. That was the situation here for David – and he saw God clearly intervene for him and defend him in his right “cause”.

5 You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished.

The past tenses in verses 5-8 are what scholars often call “Prophetic Perfects”. This is a common feature in the OT in which something future is so certain to come to pass that it is spoken of as having already happened.

The future of Israel is certain, but the wicked nations ultimately have their very names blotted out.

You cannot find the ancient neighbors of the Jews anywhere. Have you ever met a Moabite? Do you know any Hittites? Are there tours to visit the Ammonites? Can you find the postal code of a single Edomite? No! These ancient peoples disappeared from history and from the face of the earth. Yet the Jews, just as God promised, returned to their land. – **David Jeremiah**

7 But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.

The LORD isn’t going anywhere and therefore His people aren’t going anywhere. The fate of the Lord and His people are one.

In contrast to the wicked of the nations, the LORD (YHWH – the covenant God of Israel) shall endure forever. He forever sits on His throne and it is here pictured as a throne of judgment. From His throne God exacts judgment on the nations. The world has no idea – BUT the Bible is FULL of prophecy that says in one accord that the world is headed for judgment! God “has prepared His throne for judgment”.

8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

It’s coming! And when God judges the world it will be in “righteousness”.

The world screams for justice but they don't really want God's righteous judgment – they want it according to their own sinful biases and perversions. It is why the world more and more hates the Judeo-Christian ethic our country was founded on.

But God's standard of right is what He will judge by. Note the double emphasis "in righteousness" and "in uprightness". God will judge the world by His holy and right standards. Oh, they are going to get "justice" alright – just not the kind they want.

Paul quoted Ps. 9:8 in his address in Athens as seen in Acts 17 where he applied it to God's coming judgment of the world through Jesus.

Slide # 3

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 because He has appointed a day on which **He will judge the world in righteousness** by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Just as sure as the resurrection happened – just as sure the world is on a collision course with God's righteous judgment! The only way to prepare is to REPENT which God now commands all people everywhere to do.

"The psalm is a great pattern of praise on a far too much neglected level in our day. We praise God much for His mercy. That is right, but it is a good thing to recognize His righteous rule, and to praise Him for that." - ***G. Campbell Morgan***

9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.

10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

What a wonderful truth – the LORD is a refuge in time of trouble. When you have no where else to go you can go to the LORD. He is there. He cares!

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

But note the qualifier in verse 10. Not everyone can claim the “refuge” promise of verse 9. God’s special protection and care belongs to those who know His name. And who are they? Well, they are those who TRUST in Him – they are those who SEEK the LORD.

11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

Suddenly another outburst of praise in SONG to God whose special dwelling place is in Zion – referencing the Temple Mount. David in verse 1 said, “I will tell of all Your marvelous works” but here he calls on others to declare God’s deeds among the people. And the kinds of “deeds” he has in mind at this point are God’s deeds of vengeance.

The Bible tells us not to get even – because that is not our place. We do pray for the wicked oppressor that they would repent and know the grace of God, but there is also a place to praise God for His righteous vengeance.

In view here is avenging the murder of God’s people. It is good to know God doesn’t forget. So many of God’s people are quietly killed off and the world just goes on. No one seems to much notice or care. But God does!

He avenges blood – He remembers those who were murderously killed. He does not forget the cry of the humble. When Cain killed his godly brother Abel God then confronted Cain...

Slide # 4

Genesis 4:10 (NKJV)

10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”

Cain may have thought that he had gotten away with it – but no God had not forgotten. Abel’s blood figuratively cried out to God for vengeance. People may think they get away with murder – but they don’t.

Slide # 5

Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, **murderers**, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Revelation 22:15 (NKJV)

15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and **murderers** and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Slide # 6

Deuteronomy 32:35 (NKJV)

35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.’

Romans 12:19 (NKJV)

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**” **says the Lord.**

**13 Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death,
14 That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.**

David knew that God is sovereign. He knew that victory ultimately belongs to the Lord.

And yet he was no “fatalist”. He also knew God works through prayer, and right now, he was again in need of God’s intervention. Once again, he asks God to deliver him from the “gates of death”.

But he asks not merely for selfish reasons – he asks to the end that he may tell of God’s praise in Zion which is the old poetic name for Jerusalem.

David prayed for God to rescue him to the end that he might give God all the more praise. That is God-centered praying. The final goal should always be God’s greater glory!

And then in faith, he says, “***I will rejoice in Your salvation.***” David was confident and yet he prayed. That is a biblical construct.

15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.

16 The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah

Slide # 7

[Here in verse 15] he leaps forward once more to the time when the anti-Semitic nations will fall into the pit which they dug for the Jews and be trampled in the net which they intended for God's ancient people. – ***William MacDonald***

God has a way of bringing the wickedness of the wicked back on their own head. They make a pit only to fall into it. They make the net only to be caught in it.

This, too, shows the greatness of God to be able to make this happen. "The LORD is known" by these kinds of judgments.

- Esau and Isaac plotted against God's purpose only to have it end up further serving His purposes.
- Joseph's brothers meant evil to Joseph, only to have God use it for His purposes.
- Haman built the gallows for Mordecai the Jew, only to be hung on it himself.
- Judas betrayed Jesus but, in so doing, fulfilled prophecy, and God used it to bring about the salvation of mankind.

God is so great and so sovereign that in judging the wicked, He is glorified in it by reversing the entire situation around for His glory and the good of His people.

Meditation. Selah. This evidently denotes a PAUSE – with the idea we should stop and reflect on this awesome truth.

God is able to turn the tables on the wicked. It's a GOD-THING.

And then comes the end of the matter as seen in verse 17.

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.

Here is the final destiny of the wicked! They are headed for hell. And what is descriptive of the wicked is that they FORGET God. God has all kinds of reminders about Himself through His people but the wicked pay no mind. They don't want anything to do with God and it shows in the oppression of God's people.

"The forgetters of God are far more numerous than the profane or profligate, and according to the very forceful expression of the Hebrew, the nethermost hell will be the place into which all of them shall be hurled headlong. Forgetfulness seems a small sin, but it brings eternal wrath upon the man who lives and dies in it."

- Charles Spurgeon

In contrast...

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.

We have a beautiful contrast between the wicked being turned into hell in verse 17 and the fact that God's people (described here as needy and poor) shall not always be forgotten. It sometimes seems that way – but the END of the story is not yet realized. The expectation (or hope) of the poor shall not perish forever – it shall yet be realized.

The needy and poor are those who trust in the LORD as seen in verse 10 although they are often vulnerable, oppressed, and taken advantage of in this world. But they have a FUTURE HOPE. This world is not the end of the story. There is more to come...

I love that line – they will not be forgotten. God has not forgotten them.

There are few more painful things than feeling *forgotten* and feeling *disappointed*. To those in such pain, God makes these wonderful promises; that they **shall not always be forgotten**, and their **expectation** will not perish. – **David Guzik**

"The needy, and the poor, whose expectation is from the Lord, are never forgotten, though sometimes their deliverance is delayed for the greater confusion of their enemies, the greater manifestation of God's mercy, and the greater benefit to themselves." – **Adam Clarke**

19 Arise, O LORD, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight.

David has expressed confidence in God's judgment previously in the Psalm but still he prays. David's prayer is reminiscent of Moses cry in Numbers.

Slide # 8

Numbers 10:35 (NKJV)

35 So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: "**Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.**"

And David at this point is thinking in very BIG TERMS – in terms of all the nations. He is asking God to bring down the rebel wicked nations of the world.

During the times of the Gentiles, Israel has been the "tail" and not the head (so to speak- cf. Deut. 28:13). The times of the Gentiles have been a long, extended time of oppression for the Jews. And Jesus said "Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Lk. 21:24)

But one day that will come to an end. One day David's prayer will be completely answered as the nations are judged by God.

Slide # 9

Joel 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And **no aliens shall ever pass through her again.**"

20 Put them in fear, O LORD, That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah

The word for "men" in both verse 19 and 20 is the Hebrew word "enosh". It is a word that denotes the frailty and weakness of man. Man thinks he is all that but really he is not.

David asks for God to in effect humble the nations – but them in fear. Put the fear of God in them so that they might know their puny weakness.

In the Day of the Lord judgment this is exactly what God is going to do.

Slide # 10

Isaiah 2:12 (NKJV)

12 For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up— And it shall be brought low—

Isaiah 2:17 (NKJV)

17 The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Slide # 11

Isaiah 2:21–22 (NKJV)

21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.

22 Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he?

Mere air breathers should not get too cocky! They are only a breath away from death.

One day the Lord will put the rebels in their rightful place and they will discover their true essence – dust! – **Warren Wiersbe**

“What prayer, then, can we pray which is of more vital importance than that the nations may know themselves to be but men? Such knowledge must drive them to dependence upon God, and such dependence is the secret of national strength, and of national prosperity and permanence.” – **G. Campbell Morgan**

He's the great great God of the Bible.
He's the great great God of all power.
He's the great God Who can shake the world.
He's the great God of the hour!