

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Adult Sunday School
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Psalm 9 — Praise, Judgment, and Hope



1.0 Introducing Psalm 9

1.1 Psalms 9 and 10

- Psalm 10 does not have a superscription.
- Psalms 9–10 display in incomplete acrostic arrangement.
 - ✓ All my life I give to you,
Be my everlasting Guide.
Come, reveal the holy way,
Deliver me from sin today.
E ...
 - ✓ See the Hebrew alphabet in the headings to each set of eight verses in Psalm 119.
 - ✓ Perhaps intended to demonstrate literary skill or to imply that every aspect (“A to Z”) of the subject has been covered.
- Psalms 9–10 contain similar vocabulary.
- The ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint, ca. 300 B.C.) and the Latin translation by Jerome (the Vulgate, ca. 400 A.D.) both treat Psalms 9–10 as one psalm.

1.2 Psalm 9

- Praise is referred to throughout the psalm as an antidote to fear (vv. 1, 2, 11, 14).
- The believer's confidence is encouraged by references to God being in control and just (vv. 4, 7-9, 16, 19-20).
- "Lament changes into praise, and fear becomes victorious joy. Though the need was immediate and God may have responded to that particular need, the psalm looks forward to a time when all wickedness will be removed. ... The focus of the psalm is on God's kingship and his goodness to his children who cry out for deliverance from the vexations of this world." – Willem A. VanGemeren, "Psalms," in *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 5:115

2.0 Reading Psalm 9

A Psalm of David.

- ⌘ 9:1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart;
I will tell of all Your marvelous works.
- 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
- ⌘ 9:3 When my enemies turn back,
They shall fall and perish at Your presence.
- 9:4 For You have maintained my right and my cause;
You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.
- ⌘ 9:5 You have rebuked the nations,
You have destroyed the wicked;
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.
- ⌘ 9:6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever!
And you have destroyed cities;
Even their memory has perished.
- ⌘ 9:7 But the LORD shall endure forever;
He has prepared His throne for judgment.
- 9:8 He shall judge the world in righteousness,
And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.
- 9:9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed,
A refuge in times of trouble.
- 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

- † 9:11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion!
Declare His deeds among the people.
- 9:12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them;
He does not forget the cry of the humble.
- π 9:13 Have mercy on me,
O LORD!
Consider my trouble from those who hate me,
You who lift me up from the gates of death,
- 9:14 That I may tell of all Your praise
In the gates of the daughter of Zion.
I will rejoice in Your salvation.
- ϒ 9:15 The nations have sunk down
in the pit *which* they have made;
In the net which they hid,
their own foot is caught.
- 9:16 The LORD is known *by* the judgment He executes;
The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.
- ’ 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell,
And all the nations that forget God.
- ∩ 9:18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten;
The expectation of the poor shall *not* perish forever.
- 9:19 Arise, O LORD,
Do not let man prevail;
Let the nations be judged in Your sight.
- 9:20 Put them in fear, O LORD,
That the nations may know themselves *to be but* men.

Meditation. Selah

Selah

3.0 Understanding Psalm 9

3.1 Outline

- I. Singing Praise (vv. 1-2)
- II. Judgment (vv. 3-8)
 - A. On the Psalmist's Enemies (vv. 3-6)
 - B. On the World (vv. 7-8)
- III. Refuge in the LORD (vv. 9-10)
- IV. Singing Praise (vv. 11-12)
- V. Prayer for Grace (vv. 13-14)
- VI. Judgment on the Wicked (vv. 15-20)

3.2 Notes

- **vv. 1-2** “I will praise”
 - By means of these verbs in verses 1 and 2, the psalmist expresses his determination to praise God for Who He is and what He has done.
 - Are you determined to praise God or to complain about the circumstances in which you find yourself?

- **vv. 3-8** Note the contrast in both vv. 3-5 and 6-8.
 - Why does the psalmist take such care to make this contrast?
 - Two opposites dominate the psalmist’s experience at this particular time in his life.
 - Do you and I demonstrate by the way we live that God is equally dominant in our lives?

- **vv. 3-5** “You”
 - Who takes care of believers in their time of trouble?

- **v. 9** “refuge”
 - The word for “refuge” refers to either a high point out of the reach of the enemy or a high-walled fortress.

- **v. 13** “Have mercy”
 - See Psalm 4:1. It is literally, “Be gracious.”

- **vv. 13, 14** “the gates of death” and “the gates of the daughter of Zion”
 - A contrast is drawn between the place of no blessing and the place of blessing.

- **v. 15** Note the use of the chiasm (mirror structure).
 - The focus of this structure is on the central elements.
 - Compare the chiasm in our study notes for Psalm 7:16.

- **v. 16** “Meditation. Selah”
 - This could indicate a musical pause for reflection – soft singing or instrumental accompaniment.

- Some think it might have been a pause in vocal music for an instrumental interlude (like a flourish?).
- Franz Delitzsch thought that it caused the psalm to soar to a climax of triumph.
- Compare “Selah” at the end of verse 20.

4.0 Singing Psalm 9

*1 Whole-hearted thanksgiving to Thee I will bring
In praise of Thy marvelous deeds I will sing;
In Thee I will joy and exultingly cry,
Thy Name I will praise, O Jehovah, Most High.*

*Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to Jehovah, declare ye His fame,
And give Him all honor, for just is His Name.*



*2 Thou, Lord, art a Refuge for all the oppressed,
All trust Thee who know Thee, and trusting are blest;
For never, O Lord, did Thy mercy forsake
The soul that has sought of Thy grace to partake.*

*3 Give praise to Jehovah, the mighty deeds tell
Of Him Who has chosen in Zion to dwell,
Of Him to Whom justice and vengeance belong,
Who visits the lowly and overthrows wrong.*

*4 Behold my affliction, Thy mercy accord,
And back from death's portals restore me, O Lord,
That I in the gates of Thy Zion may raise
My song of salvation and show forth Thy praise.*

- Author unknown
- Refrain's first 2 lines from “To God Be the Glory” by Fanny Crosby
- Music: W. Howard Doane, 1875

5.0 Praying Psalm 9

- Lord, let me praise You, and You alone. [vv. 1-2]
- Bring judgment upon wicked and unbelieving nations. [v. 8]
- Father, be a refuge to those in need. [v. 9]
- Thank You for not abandoning those who trust in You. [v. 10]
- Lord, take action that will make all mankind realize that they are mere mortals in need of Your salvation. [v. 20]



“The heart is the instrument of praise,
the mouth only its organ.”

E. W. Hengstenberg

6.0 Applying Psalm 9

- God’s righteousness will prevail both in retribution against the wicked and justice for the innocent.
- God controls the outcome of history for nations as well as for individuals.
- Nations must realize that they are mortal. Mankind will not prevail by their own power or righteousness.