

Psalm 9

Psalms 9:1-2 [NIV] *“I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”*

Praise is expressing to God our appreciation and understanding of His worth. It is saying thank you for each aspect of His divine nature. Our inward feeling being expressed outwardly in the words we use, so it is *“with all our heart”* **not** the reading of a printed prayer or some ritualistic phrase.

The Hebrew word translated *“wonders”* is *“pâlâ”* which the Old Testament reserves for things, people or deeds that are miraculous or supernatural.

Psalms 9:3-4 [NIV] *“My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you. For you have upheld my right and my cause; you have sat on your throne, judging righteously.”*

God upholds a just cause, He vindicates those who have been criticised without cause, falsely accused and misunderstood.

God is to be praised because He sees and remembers all the good we do even when it is **not** appreciated by others.

Hebrews 6:10 [NIV] *“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”*

We may **not** be receiving rewards or acclaim right now but God will reward us in His chosen time. **[1 Thessalonians 1:2; Matthew 10:40-42; Matthew 25:40]**

Psalms 9:5-8 [NIV] *“You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name for ever and ever. Endless ruin has overtaken the enemy, you have uprooted their cities; even the memory of them has perished. The LORD reigns for ever; he has established his throne for judgment. He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.”*

David’s thoughts leap ahead of his own story and experience, to prophecy God’s total victory over evil **[verses 5-6]** and a worldwide reign of justice by the Creator God.

David is describing coming events as if they had already happened, so certain in their fulfilment and so clear was his vision, knowing the Creator God he worshipped.

Psalms 9:9-10 [NIV] *“The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.”*

These two verses are two ways of saying the same thing, God will never forsake those who seek Him and trust Him.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

A promise for all who love and obey Jesus Christ, He will be present in our lives by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 13:5-6 [NIV] *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”*

With this promise we can have peace of mind and contentment in our lives.

Psalms 9:11-12 [NIV] *“Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done. For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.”*

The Creator God is **not** confined to any place, but Zion [another name for Mount Moriah, the hill on which the temple was built] is the focal point of Israelite worship.

From this central place of worship the Jews were to tell the world about the One and only Creator God.

Romans 3:1-2 [NIV] *“What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.”*

God gave the Jews the job of retaining the Old Testament scriptures that pointed to the coming of Jesus Christ as the Messiah [Saviour] of all humanity.

Jesus Christ will avenge all evil and will be the Saviour of all who humble themselves before His Sovereignty. The Hebrew word translated “*afflicted*” is “*ânîy*” meaning lowly, humble or needy.

Psalms 9:13-14 [NIV] *“O LORD, see how my enemies persecute me! Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death, that I may declare your praises in the gates of the Daughter of Zion and there rejoice in your salvation.”*

David wanted help from God so that justice would be restored to Israel and through them to all of humanity.

When we call on God for help, first consider our motive. Is it to save us physical or mental pain, or to bring glory to God by His plan for all humanity being brought to all humanity?

John 14:13 [NIV] *“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.”*

The Greek word translated “*name*” is “*ōnōma*” meaning authority or character.

The motive behind our prayers should be as David’s was. Our prayer should be one that Jesus Christ would authorise and be within the character of Jesus Christ. [**John 15:16; John 16:23-24**]

Romans 8:26-27 [NIV] *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”*

The Holy Spirit working actively within us will help our prayers to be within the will of God the Father.

Psalms 9:15-18 [NIV] *“The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden. The LORD is known by his justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. Higgsion. Selah The wicked return to the grave, all the nations that forget God. But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.”*

The past tenses of **verses 15 and 16** could refer to the victories David had already seen, **verses 17 and 18** are a projection into the final judgement of the whole world at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The world may ignore the plight of the needy crushing any earthly hope they may have, but God is champion of weak, promises that their plight will **not** be forever, even if it is **not** reversed in this life.

They have the same future as the “*afflicted*” Hebrew “*ânîy*” meaning “*humble,*” in the future world when justice will prevail.

Psalms 9:19-20 [NIV] “*Arise, O LORD, let not man triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence. Strike them with terror, O LORD; let the nations know they are but men. Selah*”

These two verses emphasise the frailty of humans when devoid of the help of their Creator God.

Human on their own are dust [**Genesis 3:19**] and a mere breath. [**Psalms 39:11; Psalms 144:4**]

Again we are prompted to pause and meditate on what has just been inspired to be written. [“*Selah*”]

The Psalm is linked to **Psalm 10** which exposes the weak, moral state of humans who are without the Creator God directing their lives.