

Psalm 9 is a very interesting psalm. It is a positive praise song of thanksgiving. What David is actually thanking and praising God for is because God destroys all enemies. Although Psalm 9 is very personal and very practical, it is mostly prophetic. Psalm 9 is praise to God because God has judged the nations, destroyed the Antichrist and establishes Israel and His Davidic King as His own. Psalm 9 is a thanksgiving and great praise to God because David sees Jesus Christ in Zion and reigning as the righteous judge.

Now we may notice from the superscription that this psalm is a “muth-labben.” The Hebrew word “muth” is one that means death. The Hebrew word “ben” is one that means “son.” By prefixing the word “muth” to “ben” we form the word “muth-labben” which means the death to or of a son.

So this is a praise to God for the death of some son. David was happy that some enemy had been destroyed and was thankful that God’s people can always trust God when in difficulty. It is possible that David personally had “Cush” in his mind from whom David had specifically asked God for deliverance (Psalm 7). It is also possible that he has a son in mind who is connected with the judgment of the nations (9:5, 15). This son would be none other than the Antichrist.

This psalm breaks down nicely into five main segments:

SEGMENT #1 – David gives thanks and praise to God. **9:1-10**

Verses 1-2 open with words that describe a thankful believer who desires to praise God and thank God from “all” of his heart. He wanted to testify for God and praise and worship God and rejoice in God and all his heart was in this.

When David did anything, he put his whole heart into it and that included a desire to praise and worship God. Charles Spurgeon said “half heart is no heart” (*Psalms*, p. 41). David wanted to tell people about all of God’s “wonders.” That word “wonders” means David wanted to tell people about all the extraordinary things God had done to distinguish Himself as God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 674).

Notice David wanted to sing praise to God’s name, the God who is the Most High. This point is critical to worship. God does not accept worship from those who refuse to recognize His name. The Most High God names Himself in the Scriptures—Elohim, Adonai, Jehovah. He identifies Himself as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is known by His name Lord Jesus Christ. Those who refuse to honor these names will never offer acceptable praise to the Most High God.

Now beginning at **verse 3**, David gives four reasons why he desires to praise God and thank God from all of his heart:

Reason #1 - David praises God because of His personal deliverance. **9:3-4**

David was a great warrior. He could have taught survival skills to any branch of any military. However, David did not believe his reason for survival was due to himself. He believed that God had protected him. One writer said the thing about David that he was always concerned that he was on God's side, because he wanted God on his side. David pursued righteousness because he knew that put him in a good relationship with God.

David's enemies chased David and hounded him and when they finally turned back from their chase, God was waiting for them. God's eye was on David. God knew David loved Him with all his heart. David was a man of integrity and his cause was just and God protected him and David loved to praise God for it.

Reason #2 - David praises God because of His national deliverance. **9:5-6**

Notice carefully from **verse 5** that God's judgment against the nations includes extermination and extinction. The description of what happens in **verse 6** to enemies of Israel is not pretty; it is violent and graphic. Nations and cities are completely demolished and they perish.

Now keep in mind that David is writing this about 1000 years before Jesus Christ was born. The Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation near the end of the first century and was launched into the future to see the Tribulation. In Revelation 16:19 he says that he saw "the cities of the nations fell." John prophetically saw exactly what David saw. Israel will be delivered and nations and cities will be demolished by God.

The toppling of the cities will occur during the Tribulation and the actual judgment of the nations will occur immediately after the Tribulation, when Christ comes in all of His glory (Mt. 25:31ff).

Dr. McGee made an interesting observation about this psalm. He said that most sermons that he heard were designed to comfort people and not warn them of a future ferocious judgment of God. But this text forces us to admit the fact that God is a ferocious judge and there is a terrible judgment coming for those who refuse to turn to Him. In fact, this text says there will not even be any memory of those who have perished.

Reason #3 - David praises God because of His international judgment. **9:7-8**

In sharp contrast to those whose memory is eliminated is a God who abides forever (**9:7**). David rejoiced because he knew of a future time when God would someday judge the world. **Verse 8** is very emphatic in Hebrew; God, Himself, will judge the world. He will judge the world in righteousness and with equity. There will be no partiality shown.

People who are living with a guilty conscience or who are living some fraudulent life will not like this day. Those who are not right with God hate the thought of judgment.

But all people need to know God will judge the world. God's judgment will be true and equitable. Those right with God can rejoice and praise God for that just like David.

Reason #4 - David praises God for His personal protection. **9:9-10**

The idea of God being our stronghold and refuge in times of trouble is a theme that shows up often in Psalms. It is a theme that means He is our protection and security in threatening times of trouble and we need to learn to flee to Him and trust Him.

That phrase "in times of trouble" has prophetic overtones because it has a reference to the Tribulation and the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7). David is praising God because God will always be a stronghold for His people, even during the Tribulation.

Verse 10 is interesting because it says those who know God's name "will" put their trust in God. This clearly establishes that knowledge is critical to faith. Those who truly know God do really trust God and they will never be forsaken.

When troubles and trials surround us, the right thing to do is to learn more and more about God and put our trust in Him. God is a stronghold in times of trouble for His people and His people can trust Him, even Israel when in the Tribulation.

SEGMENT #2 – David urges God's people to sing praises to God and to declare His deeds to the people. **9:11-12**

Do not overlook the fact that God identifies Himself as a God who dwells in Zion; in other words, He is the God of Israel. Zion is a term that refers to the entire city of Jerusalem (Is. 1:26-27). God will someday reign in Jerusalem and that day specifically begins with the second coming of Christ after the Tribulation.

God will not reign from Mecca, or Salt Lake City. He does not identify Himself as the God of the Arabs or Mormons. He is the God of Israel and one day He will reign from Jerusalem. By the way notice that the "LORD" (Jehovah) is said to live in Zion. The actual person who will live in Jerusalem and reign will be Jesus Christ. This proves that Jesus in the N.T. is Jehovah of the O.T..

Verse 12 makes it clear that when Christ dwells in Zion, He will pour out His judgment. He will remember those who wronged His people and will require blood from them. God does not just forget about the cry of the one afflicted. As Chrysostom said, "Prayer is a haven to the shipwrecked man" (Cited from Spurgeon, p. 42).

SEGMENT #3 – David prays and asks God for His grace. **9:13-14**

David asks God to be gracious to him, but not to his enemies. David was not yet free from his own troubles and neither was the nation Israel. In fact, he had personal troubles even when writing about the futuristic time that pertained to Israel.

There were people who hated David and afflicted him. There were people around David who made life miserable for him. David knew he needed God's grace to survive.

When you read **verse 13**, David realized that it was God who had graciously delivered him from the gates of death. Even though he was a tremendous warrior, David's confidence was not in himself, it was in the Lord.

Notice **verse 14** why David wanted God to graciously deliver him, so he could testify of God's greatness to others.

SEGMENT #4 – David makes statements about the nations and the wicked . **9:15-18**

David is using the word “nations” in regard to the fact that they are not Israel. Many nations are digging a pit of hatred for the Jew. It is a pit into which they will all fall. God will snare the wicked by their own hands. Their hatred of the Jew will end with them facing the ultimate Jew, Jesus Christ, and they will fall into their own pit. God will make Himself known by His judgment.

The fact that God makes Himself known by judgment, when He judges the wicked, is something to seriously consider. In fact, at the end of **verse 16**, David says “Higgaion Selah,” which means quiet down, pause and think about this.

Wicked people will end up trapping themselves before Jesus Christ. He knows everything about them and they will face Him and He will execute justice based on the “work” of their own hands. People who face God on the basis of their works will end up in a snare. They will end up trapped and they will end up in hell. Think about that very seriously.

Notice where the wicked go, to Sheol or hell (**v. 17**). The word “Sheol” is one that refers to a subterranean place where the dead went in O.T. times. One area was a place of comfort (Abraham's bosom) and the other was a place of torment (Hades, Hell). The wicked go to the place of torment.

Now in **verse 18**, David explains that when the wicked perish forever, God's needy people will be remembered and blessed forever. This world is not going to operate the way it does now. Wicked people will be removed and the needy people of God will be honored and will reign.

SEGMENT #5 – David makes a final request of God. **9:19-20**

David asks God to arise and not let man prevail. The word for “man” (enosh) refers to the weak and frail man. David wanted God to come and he wanted the nations to be judged. He realized the eschatological ramifications of all of that. When God judges the nations He will strike terror and fear in them and they will realize they are nothing but weak frail men. Fact is they are dying men who are heading to the judgment of God.

Selah—pause and think about that.

Practical Considerations:

- 1. Future judgment is a theme for which we may praise God for His majesty.**
- 2. We do have the responsibility to warn people of a real literal hell.**
- 3. When we trust in God and are pursuing what is right, we may expect God's deliverance.**
- 4. Times of great trial and testing are times that promote great trust in God.**
- 5. We should always be supportive of and respectful of Israel.**
- 6. We should worship God with all of our heart, not just with part of our heart.**