

I WILL BE GLAD  
AND EXULT  
IN YOU; I WILL  
SING PRAISE TO  
YOUR NAME,  
O MOST HIGH.

P S A L M 9 : 2

# PURPOSE

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## OF PRAISE

### DATE

July 25-26

### WEEK

8 of 10

### OVERVIEW

Psalms 9:1-11

### KEY VERSE

Psalms 9:2

## SETTING THE STAGE

The Psalms are a collection of songs and poems. They deal with real-life situations that are to be embraced. Sometimes that means we are to embrace that which causes us fear and dismay. Other times that means we are to embrace that which causes us to smile and jump for joy assuming we can jump! Throughout the Psalms, we see the fullness of life and death; confidence and fear; praise and sorrow.

The Psalms were written by different authors, though David is believed to have written approximately half of them, including the one we are looking at today. David experienced the fullness of life and wrote it as a crying out to God, a prayer and even a song. The Psalms allow us to reflect on the circumstances of the past, present, and future and learn from how David and other authors dealt with various aspects of life and death. The Psalms guide us to worship God regardless of the circumstances we might be facing. Dr. Thomas Constable reminds us that the Psalms reveal that worship grows out of something God has done for man.<sup>1</sup>

We learn from the Psalms that worship is a matter of the heart, not circumstances. We also learn that praise is the foundation of worship and God is worthy of both praise and worship simply because He is God. David did not let circumstances dictate whether or when he would praise and worship God. *Continued on page 54 >*

### LESSON OUTLINE

1. Perspective of Praise
2. Protection in Praise
3. Provision with Praise

### THINGS TO KNOW

- The Hebrew word 'Yadah' means "to shoot, throw, or cast down." It is an intentional movement towards something. This word is translated as "thanks" or "thanksgiving."
- The Hebrew word 'Zamar' means "to sing or play a musical instrument with the idea of plucking an instrument with fingers." This word is translated as "sing praise."
- With both words above, there is a giver and receiver. The one who gives thanks and sings praise does so with the intent of it being received.

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# PURPOSE

## OF PRAISE

*Setting the Stage, continued >*

In Psalm 9 we see a psalm of praise and thanksgiving that seems illogical based on circumstances. But praise and worship throughout Scripture are never based on logic, but rather are an outward expression of our thanksgiving, gratitude and recognition of who God is in all His fullness.

### Introduction

We have all experienced various times of trouble. Whether it was a loss of a loved one, a loss of a job, an illness, a divorce, or the coronavirus that impacted the world; there have been times of trouble in our lives. No one has been or will be exempt from difficulties, directly or indirectly.

Yet, we have each experienced times of celebration as well such as the birth of a child or grandchild, a marriage, a special vacation, a job promotion, or school graduation. It is in the times of celebration that we know exactly how to respond, whereas in times of trouble it is a bit more challenging.

On January 31, 1969, in London, England a group that had made a pretty good name for themselves recorded a song called “Let It Be.” Perhaps you have heard of The Beatles, they had a few hits. Paul McCartney wrote the song, “Let It Be” based on a dream he had of his mother Mary, who had died of cancer when he was 14 years old. Paul had this dream during a very difficult time in 1968 when the group was becoming more dysfunctional and considering breaking up. In the dream, he remembered the words his mother would tell him on how to deal with difficult situations in life. The opening verse of the song states the premise clearly:

When I find myself in times of trouble, mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom,  
let it be. And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of  
wisdom, let it be.

Though not a spiritual song there is a truth that we find in these words that are similar to what David writes in Psalm 9. David shows us how to respond to times of trouble not based on words from an earthly parent but based on faith in the wisdom, sovereignty, and protection of our Heavenly Father, praising God in times of trouble. Let’s take a look:

**PSALM 9:1-11** *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*



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<sup>1</sup> [www.soniclight.com/psalms](http://www.soniclight.com/psalms)

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.

## 1. PERSPECTIVE OF PRAISE

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**PSALM 9:1-2** *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.*

The first two verses resound with praise and thanksgiving. In the overall context of this particular Psalm, it does not make logical sense. As you keep reading you see David refer to *enemies* (v.3), the *wicked* (v.5), the *oppressed* (v.9), *times of trouble* (v.9) those who *hate him* (v.13), and *nations sinking down in the pit which they have made* (v.15). Honestly, it does not seem there would be a lot to be thankful for or sing praises about in a logical sense.

And that is the key. David was not logical in his praise. David was completely illogical “in times of trouble.” He had a perspective of praise regardless of the circumstances. It was a choice he made with intentionality. In the first two verses, David uses the phrase, “I will” four times. The first time being the one that sets the tone and becomes foundational for the entire psalm.

**PSALM 9:1A** *I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;*

David did not put his faith in people, things, fame or fortune. He put his faith in God. His perspective of praise was focused exclusively on the LORD.

The word used in verse 1 for LORD is the Hebrew word “Yahweh/Jehovah.” This was the proper name of the one true God.<sup>2</sup> It was the personal name for God. The intimate name for God. Whenever this name for God was used, it would be a recognition and reminder of the God of the Covenant. David was giving thanks and praise to the God who made promises and kept promises to His people, even in times of trouble.

Logically David could have complained. Based on the words and phrases used in this psalm the circumstances were greater and deeper than mere ‘times of trouble.’ Logically he could have felt victimized, bullied and overwhelmed. All of which could have been valid feelings he had, though he did not dwell on those feelings and stay in that mindset. Logically he could have turned his back on God because of these ‘times of trouble.’ Logically he could have asked and pleaded with God asking, “what kind of God would let these times of trouble happen?”

But David had a different perspective. He had a perspective of praise which was an intentional choice. David did not wait for the feeling of praise to happen. He chose to praise God. In David’s heart and mind, he said with boldness and confidence, “I will.”

- I will praise you.
- 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.

With intentionality, David set forth to live a lifestyle with a perspective not based on circumstances but on praise. The perspective of looking at God for who God is as Creator, telling of all the wonders on heaven and earth. The perspective of being

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<sup>2</sup> biblestudytools.com/lexicon.

glad and rejoicing in God, not in what is circumstantial. The perspective of praise to His name who is Most High. In the New Testament Paul would refer to Jesus as “the name above all names” (Philippians 2:9-11).

## 2. PROTECTION IN PRAISE

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**PSALM 9:3-6** *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.*

David had made his choice to have the perspective of praise. Perhaps that perspective was enhanced by God’s protection. Notice in verse 3 he takes an abrupt change in tone from praise to a harsh reality. He begins to talk about enemies turning back. They were heading in one direction that would have been disruptive to David in some form or fashion and they retreated, which is amazing.

However, do not miss the next part of verse 3 where David did not take any credit for this, nor did he consider this to be a coincidence. It was God’s doing. God was protecting David in times of trouble. Remember part of the praise that David gave God was based on “telling of all your wonders” in verse 1? The wonders of God are not limited to the beauty of the sky, clouds, mountains or oceans. The wonders of God are not limited to the cuteness of animals and the awesomeness of kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. The wonders of God are all-encompassing. The wonders of God are such that sometimes it means your enemies will turn back and stumble before God. God, the Most High is protective of His people in ways we may not even be aware of at first, but then the light bulb moment happens and we realize that God is God and we are not.

The wonders of God are all-encompassing.

In verses 4-6, David uses the phrase “You have” six times. It is almost as if David cannot stop praising God for His protection. David did not even want to appear to take any credit for himself or pass it off as coincidental good luck. David was praising God in these words, noting that God was in control. God had his back. God was just. God was responsible for the consequences.

There is a great relief for us when we realize that God is in control. God wants to be a God of protection. Look at the words of the Psalmist below:

**PSALM 91:1-4** *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!” <sup>3</sup>For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup>He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.*

When we walk with God we are in the shelter of the Most High, in the shadow of the Almighty. It is a reminder that God is bigger than us and protects us. He is our refuge and fortress. He delivers us from the snare of the trapper. He covers us with His pinions. Under His wings, we may seek refuge.

When we realize the truth of these passages we can say as David did with assurance, “You have” my best interest in mind. You have my back in times of trouble. When there is darkness, You are the light. When there are fears, You are my comfort. When there are doubts, You are faithful. When you have the proper perspective of praise, you realize the protection God provides in your life in good times and in times of trouble.

Beyond perspective and protection, we find God’s provision.

### 3. PROVISION WITH PRAISE

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**PSALM 9:7-11** *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.*

This year we have been reminded in very real ways of how precious life is and how quickly life can change. This psalm is a wonderful reminder of the reality that the LORD abides forever. He never ceases. He never changes. The Hebrew word for 'abide' is, 'Yashab' which literally means to dwell and sit down.<sup>3</sup> That is a vivid picture of what God does in our lives. He dwells and sits down with us. God is not standing up ready to move on to something else. God is intimately interested in you as an individual, sitting down with you, dwelling forever.

There is comfort in knowing that the LORD abides forever and He is in control. One of the ways God is in control and provides for us is in the form of judgment and accountability. Rarely do we want to think of God as the God of judgment, because we tend to think of that as a negative. However, as we see in this context it is clearly positive. It is God who is in charge of providing that judgment, not you and me. God will judge the world in righteousness.

**There is comfort in knowing that the LORD abides forever and He is in control.**

For those who are in a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, there is provision in these words. God has provided righteousness for every person who believes in Jesus Christ.

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:30** *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

When God judges the world in righteousness, He will be looking at us through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who provided salvation for those who believe. God provided a way for us to be with Him for all eternity, judged in righteousness.

God also provides a stronghold and refuge in times of trouble. I remember as a child when I was in trouble my first instinct would be to try and hide so I would not get caught. That rarely worked well for me. I was like the cat behind the curtain with the tail hanging out for all to see. But the good news of this psalm is that when we find ourselves in times of trouble, we do not have to hide, we have a stronghold not simply made by God, but God Himself is the stronghold.

Some translations use the word 'refuge' which is an accurate translation as 'stronghold.' But I like the picture in my mind when I read the word 'stronghold.' Can you imagine anything stronger than the grip of the hand of God? The One who created the earth, molding and shaping man from dust. The One responsible for Mount Everest and the Pacific Ocean. The One who flattened out the prairies of the Midwest and carved the coastlines. There is no stronger grip than the Hand of God on your life, especially in times of trouble.

The circumstances of life are often beyond our control. The fluctuation of the stock market is

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<sup>3</sup> [biblestudytools.com/lexicon](http://biblestudytools.com/lexicon).

beyond our control. The changing moral compass in our culture is overwhelming, to say the least, and frustrating on most every level. But in times of trouble, we can praise God because He is our stronghold. He is our firm foundation in all circumstances both in good times and in times of trouble.

This realization leads David to another realization in verse 10.

**PSALM 9:10-11** *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.*

**“Ignorance is worst when it amounts to ignorance of God, and knowledge is best when it exercises itself upon the name of God.”<sup>4</sup>**

Often in times of trouble, we feel abandoned, neglected or rejected. We feel alone and isolated. Notice this provision that David realizes for those who know God and put their trust in Him. The idea is to have a personal relationship with God, not just an acquaintance that you wave to as you pass by on the street. Charles Spurgeon said of this verse, “Ignorance is worst when it amounts to ignorance of God, and knowledge is best when it exercises itself upon the name of God.”<sup>4</sup> David had that personal, intimate relationship with God, exercising that true knowledge of God. Now for us, that relationship is provided to us through Jesus Christ. And the promise remains the same that He will not forsake those who seek Him.

There is motion in the word “seek,” moving towards God. We are told to, “*Seek first the Kingdom of God*” (*Matthew 6:33*). We are to move forward in our relationship with and trust of God each day. The more we get to know God, the more we trust God and can rest in His provision.

When we realize that God has not forsaken us even in our times of trouble, we can truly praise God and shine the light on Him and not our circumstances. Our focus is transferred from that which is temporary to the Eternal One, the One who never forsakes us.

Our praise becomes a declaration to others. What a wonderful opportunity for our testimony to be a testimony of praise, not based on circumstances but based on the LORD God Almighty.

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<sup>4</sup> C.H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David, Volume 1 Psalms 1-57*; Zondervan Grand Rapids, MI, 1979, p. 98.

## HOW HIS PLAN SHAPES OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of praise is not intended to make us feel happy inside. The purpose of praise is not based on circumstances being good, comfortable, fun and easy. The purpose of praise is; wait for it, Praise! The word “praise” means to shine the light on an object. The purpose of praise is to shine the light on God.

I have on more than one occasion said to my wife on a cloudy day, “I wish the sun would start shining.” And she always corrects me with her reply, “The sun is always shining.” She, of course, is correct, again. The sun is always shining even on a cloudy day. In that moment I was focused on the grayness of the day, the clouds blocking my perspective of the sun. However, when I stop to think about it, even on the cloudiest and rainiest of days, the sun is shining. It comes down to a matter of perspective. In the same way regardless of circumstances, even in times of trouble, God is shining brightly.

God is protecting and providing for us in big and small ways. God protects and provides for us in times of trouble as well as in times of comfort. God is always shining down on us as He dwells with us, sits with us, dines with us, communes with us. There is fellowship with God on the cloudy days and even during torrential rains; the Light of the World, Jesus the Son of God is still shining.

It is during the times of trouble that God can shape us to where we truly recognize the Purpose of Praise. So, let’s praise the Lord!