

### The Establishment of the Lord's Righteous Throne Forever

#### Psalms 9 & 10

##### Background Notes for Psalms 9 & 10

We're covering Psalms 9 and 10 in one Talk because they go together naturally. In fact, in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) Psalms 9 and 10 are placed together as one psalm. Of course this arrangement doesn't affect the concept and truth of inspiration because the content is unchanged! The numerals on the psalms are not any more inspired than numbers on chapters, which were added much later for convenience in finding Scripture passages.

The fact that Psalm 10 doesn't have its own title is another feature that ties Psalms 9 and 10 together. In addition, Psalms 9 and 10 go together naturally because they are both "alphabetic acrostic songs." Together they go from A to Z in the Hebrew alphabet every two verses, from the beginning of Psalm 9 to the end of Psalm 10. The structure is not perfect, because some of the Hebrew letters are skipped, but it is obvious that the psalms belong together.

In the title of Psalm 9, the term "Muth Labben" means "To the Tune of the Death of the Son." The psalm was written "For the director of music."

##### Doctrinal Point for Psalm 9

**The righteous throne of God will be established forever.**

Psalm 9:1-12 – *"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart. I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You. I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

*When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence. For You have maintained my right and my cause. You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked. You have blotted out their name forever and ever. O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities. Even their memory has perished, but the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.*

*The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."*

*Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them. He does not forget the cry of the humble."*

In verses 1-10 of this psalm, David thanked and praised the Lord with all his heart, and said that he would tell of all God's wonders, or His marvelous works. In the context, God's "*marvelous works*" are His works of conquering the enemy, destroying the wicked, and setting up His righteous throne. "*You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; even their memory has perished*" (v4-6).

When will all this righteous work of judgment take place? Ultimately it will take place when the Lord returns in judgment and establishes His earthly kingdom. "*But the Lord shall endure forever. He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness*" (v7-8). What a great time that will be!

Verses 9-10 look forward to the future Tribulation period. Jeremiah 30:7 referred to this period as the "*time of Jacob's trouble*." At that time the small godly remnant of believers of the last days will look to the Lord as their stronghold, their fortress, and their refuge. "*The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You*" (v9-10).

When the Lord returns, His righteous rule will be praised, His righteous standards will be upheld, and the unrighteous will know the vengeance of God. "Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them. He does not forget the cry of the humble" (v11-12).

Psalm 9:13-20 - "*Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me. You who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation. The nations have sunk down in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot is caught. The Lord is known by the judgment He executes; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten. The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail! Let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah*"

In verses 1-12 David was speaking prophetically about the future. But in verses 13-20 David returned to the present, and prayed for present deliverance.

In verses 15-16, David was probably remembering victories of God's people in the past, when God allowed the enemy to destroy themselves, such as when Gideon fought the Midianites (Judges 7). David was confident that the Lord could do it again - and we, too, can have this confidence!

*Higgaion*, or meditation, is probably a musical term that indicates a pause in the music for meditation. As you can see, it's followed by *Selah*.

The word "hell" in verse 17 is the Hebrew word "Sheol." It means the grave, or the realm of the dead. But we know from the rest of Scripture that the unbeliever will be in hell forever, so the translation "hell" here is proper. Individuals and nations will be judged and the righteous throne of God will be established forever.

## **Doctrinal Point for Psalm 10**

### **The unrighteous triumphs of men will be eliminated forever.**

Psalm 10 - *"Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor. Let them be caught in the plots that they have devised. For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. His ways are always prospering. Your judgments are far above, out of his sight. As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.*

*He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity." His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. He sits in the lurking places of the villages; in the secret places he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. He lies in wait secretly. As a lion in his den, he lies in wait to catch the poor. He catches the poor when he draws him into his net. So he crouches, he lies low, that the helpless may fall by his strength. He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."*

*Arise, O Lord! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account." But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You. You are the helper of the fatherless. Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man! Seek out his wickedness until You find none.*

*The Lord is King forever and ever. The nations have perished out of His land.*

*Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more."*

A **theodicy** is the vindication of God in the face of the existence of evil. That's what David was looking for in Psalm 10. I'm sure you noticed that the question "Why?" comes up several times. David wanted to know why the Lord wasn't judging wickedness. Why does the Lord seem so distant at times, especially when righteous people are in trouble? *"Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor. Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised."*

Why are the wicked allowed to boast? Why are they allowed to say, "There is no God" - and get away with it? *"For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire. He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts"* (v3-4).

Why are unrighteous people allowed to go on in their pride, and think that they will never be removed? Why are the wicked allowed to curse, and practice deceit, and plot all kinds of oppression and snares, and operate as though God did not see or care? *"His ways are always prospering. Your judgments are far above, out of his sight. As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity"* (v5-6).

Have you ever asked any of these questions? Did you ever feel that God isn't doing anything about wickedness? Have you wondered, "Why it is taking Him so long?" All of us have probably all asked these questions at one time or another. The answer begins in verse 12, when David called on the Lord to rise up and judge the wicked. Even though unrighteous people think they're getting away with it, they're wrong! God **does** see their evil ways, and He **does** help the afflicted. *"But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You. You are the helper of the fatherless"* (v14).

David was confident that God would ultimately break the power of the evildoer (v15), because the Lord is sovereign, and He is in control of all things (v16). Therefore David knew that God sees, and He knows, and He cares - and that He will ultimately remove all injustice and evil from this world. The unrighteous triumphs of man will be eliminated forever. *"LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more"* (v17-18).

## Practical Application

### Take heart – the days of the terrorists are numbered!

We live in a time when many varieties of terrorism run rampant around the world. We must do what we can to stop it, but ultimately terrorism will only be put an end when the Lord returns. And - praise God! - **He will return**, and the evil practices of ungodly people will be eliminated forever. The Lord **will** put an end to all evil!

Look at the end of Psalm 10:18. When the Lord returns, mere earthly mortals will no longer be allowed to oppress, or persecute, or cause terror and havoc on the earth. And the return of the Lord may be closer than we realize - so take heart! The days of the terrorists are numbered!