

Psalm 9

Verses 1-12 – The sovereign and eternal judge of the whole world is worthy of our praise

Verses 13-20 – The judge of the whole world will again judge the wicked and fulfil the hopes and prayers of the oppressed.

➤ **Individual praise of God, Prayer of gratitude - vv. 1-2**

➤ **God's judgment on enemies** – present justice leads to enemy defeat – God is actively at work in providing justice in the present, **vv. 3-6**

➤ **Hope in God's sovereign, just rule** – God reigns over the world and its people, and can be trusted, **vv. 7-10**

➤ **Community praise of God**, trust turned into praise. Need to move from affirming God's power to praying that God will act, **vv. 11-14**

➤ **God's judgment on nations**, the principle of God's justice should lead to a celebration of its practice, **vv. 15-18**

➤ **Hope in God's just rule** – 'Arise, Lord', **vv. 19-20**

Conclusions

Because God has demonstrated that he is the righteous judge of the world, believers may trust in him now for protection from the wicked and confidently pray for final vindication in the judgement to come.

Do you feel weak this morning? Bewildered at what is going on in the world?
Discouraged when evil seems to have the upper hand?

‘God is sovereign in history and politics! God’s sovereignty is not merely a doctrine but a reality that the people praying have experienced ... we are invited to lift our eyes from our present pressures and remember occasions when God has acted in situations like the ones we are in, which means we can trust God for the future’. (J. Goldingay, *Psalms for Everyone* Part 1, Psalms 1-72, London, SPCK, 2013, p.32).

How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? Rev.6:10.

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Psalm 9:1-20

I will praise you, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all your marvellous works....

I. THERE IS A PREDOMINANT NOTE OF PRAISE. (Vv. 1-5, 11, 12, 14.) Let us not praise with a divided, but a whole heart. It is incited by recounting all God's works. Let memory heap fuel on the altar of praise.

II. THERE IS AN ASSERTION OF TRUST. (Vv. 7-12, 18.) The oppressed, the humble, the needy, and the poor have strong encouragement. Calamity drives them to God, and so they come to know Him, and then the more they trust Him. Doubt is born of ignorance. Leave God to vindicate you; He will not forget.

III. THERE IS A PETITION FOR FURTHER HELP. (Vv. 13, 19, 20.) What a contrast between the gates of death (ver. 13), and the gates of the Holy City (ver. 14)! He who lifts the righteous, hurls down the wicked. It is a sin to forget God (ver. 17).

(F. B. Meyer)