

# *Psalm 9—Recounting God's Wonderful Deeds*

Psalm 9 was written by King David, possibly later in his rule. It is praise by the king for deliverance from hostile nations. We don't know the specifics of which nations, although we know that David (and Israel) did not have a trouble-free existence! The psalm has a tone of hope and confidence. Commentators feel that Psalms 9 and 10 may have originally been one psalm. From the NIV Study Bible: "the Hebrew text of the two psalms together appears to reflect an incomplete (or broken) acrostic structure....Psalm 9 is predominantly praise (by the king) for God's deliverance from hostile nations....Psalm 10 is predominantly prayer against the rapacity of unscrupulous men within the realm—as arrogant and wicked in their dealings with the "weak" as the nations were in their attacks on Israel."

## *God's Wonderful Deeds (verses 1-4)*

1. What are the four "I wills" in verses 1-2?
  
2. What are some "wonderful deeds" that have touched your life?

## *The War is Won (verses 5-8)*

3. David moves on to specifics now. What are the five "You have's" in verses 4-6?
  
4. In a nutshell, what has God done for David and the nation of Israel?
  
5. In some translations, verse 7 begins with "but", indicating a contrast. How do verses 5-6 contrast with verses 7-8?

## *God is our Stronghold (verses 9-12)*

6. Re-read verses 4b, 7, and 11—taking note of the mention of thrones.

Verse 11 refers to God being enthroned in Zion. His heavenly throne, mentioned earlier in the psalm, has an earthly counterpart—in the temple at Jerusalem.

- a. What is God doing while on His throne?
  
- b. In verses 4-5, God has judged righteously and rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked. We know our sins and should also fear the rebuke of God. How can what is described in 2 Corinthians 5: 19-21 help calm those fears?

7. Read verse 10 and Proverbs 18:10. What are some of the names of God that we find in Scripture? How do these names bring you comfort?
  
8. According to verse 12, God does not “ignore the cry of the afflicted”. How does this promise help in the face of Satan’s attempts to lead us into unbelief or despair?

### *An Appeal to the Lord (verses 13-16)*

From the NIV Study Bible: “Praise of God’s past deliverances is often an integral part of prayer in the Psalter...Such praise expressed the ground of the psalmist’s hope that his present prayer would be heard, and it also functioned to motivate the Lord to act once more in his people’s (or his servant’s) behalf.”

9. How does verse 13 personalize and make specific the promise found in verse 12?
  
10. Two gates are mentioned in verses 12-13. What are they and what do they represent?
  
11. Hebrew poetry uses parallelism (matching thoughts rather than rhyming words) in successive lines. What phrases showing this appear in verses 15-16?

### *What—or Who—is Most Important? (verses 17-20)*

12. “Forgetting” is mentioned in both verses 17 and 18. What are the contrasting points made?

David is a king who has a lot at stake with his neighboring nations. They would understand that if Israel was the strongest nation, it was because they had the strongest God.

13. If man triumphed over God (which David asks NOT to happen in verse 19), what assumptions would man make?
  
14. If you had to choose one verse from this psalm, what would it be and why?

Yhwh's omnipotence is an active omnipotence. He is at work in the past, present, and future, which are as one to him. He is transcendent over the world, and yet he cares for the afflicted and the individual. He allows himself to be found—on Zion principally—where salvation and praise are made complete. He is the one who judges and saves as he wishes. Clearly the speaker of Psalm 9 adores Yhwh and is confident that Yhwh rests with him. He also knows that he rests with Yhwh. He is confident that when Yhwh's judgment falls upon the wicked, it will not fall on him. He rests in the knowledge that his enemies are Yhwh's enemies. –Concordia Commentary on the Psalms

**2 Corinthians 5:19-21**>>> <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Proverbs 18:10** >>> The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Lutheran Study Bibles.
- Concordia Commentary of Psalms 1-50 by Timothy Saleska
- A New Song: All of Your Wonderful Deeds by Jane Fryar et al.