

Psalm 9

Title: The Lord Judges the World

Author and Date: David

Key Verse: Psalm 9:8

Outline

- A. The Lord will judge me (verses 1-4).
- B. The Lord will judge the nations (verses 5-8).
- C. The Lord will judge the poor (verses 9-12).
- D. The Lord will judge me and the nations (verses 13-16).
- E. The Lord will judge the poor and the nations (verses 17-20).

Notes

Title: “For the Chief Musician; set to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.” See the notes on previous psalms. The word “Muth-labben” possibly means “the death of the son” (NIV) or “to die for the son”. It may have been a song title, a song style, or the name of an instrument.

Verse 1: The first letter of the first word in this verse starts with the Hebrew letter Aleph (“A”). Psalm 9 is the first of nine acrostic psalms. Every other verse or so begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet (the Heb. letter Daleth is omitted). Psalm 10 picks up the acrostic with the Hebrew letter Lamedh (“L”). Psalm 9 and Psalm 10 are united together in the Septuagint (LXX) and the Latin Vulgate.

Verse 4: The Lord’s righteous and just judgment is the theme of this psalm (see also verses 7, 8, 16, and 19).

Verse 5: “Nations” (Heb. *goiim*) or “heathen” (KJV) refer to non-Jewish people; all people who are non-Israelites. “Heathen” should not be interpreted to mean a primitive, uneducated person.

Verse 12: The Lord remembers those who are murdered and the ones doing the murdering. He is the great avenger of blood (Heb. *go’el*). See Genesis 4:10 and 9:5. The KJV and ASV read: “he that maketh inquisition for blood...” The NET Bible reads: “For the one who takes revenge against murderers took notice of the oppressed...”

Verse 14: The “gates of the daughter of Zion” is a reference to “Jerusalem’s gates” (NLT).

Verses 15-16: The wicked will reap what they sow. See the notes on Psalm 7:15-16.

Verse 16: The word “Haggaion” (with “Selah”) following this verse is a music notation (see also Psa. 92:3). It may mean something equivalent to “largo”, or a slowing down to pause for reflection. For “Selah” (here and after verse 20), see the notes on Psalm 3:2.

Verse 17: For “Sheol”, see the notes on Psalm 6:5.

Questions

1. What things (four “I will’s”) does the psalmist promise to do regarding the Lord (verses 1-2)?
2. What happens to the psalmist’s enemies (verse 3)?
3. What has the Lord done for the psalmist himself (verse 4)?
4. What has the Lord done to the nations, the wicked, and the enemies (verses 5-6)?
5. How does the Lord sit and what will he do to the world (verse 7-8)?
6. What will the Lord be to the oppressed (verse 9) and what will the Lord do to those who trust him and seek him (verse 10)?
7. What does the psalmist call upon his listeners to do and why (verses 11-12)?
8. What does the psalmist request of the Lord and what is his motive for doing so (verses 13-14)?
9. What will happen to the wicked nations (verses 15-16)?
10. Where will the wicked go (verse 17)?

11. What will happen to those who are needy and poor (verse 18)?

12. What things does the psalmist request the Lord do to the nations (verse 19-20)?

Applications for Today

1. Worship to God must be done with the “whole heart” (verse 1). Is my worship whole-hearted or half-hearted? What did Jesus say about serving God (Mt. 22:37)?

2. The Lord will “judge the world in righteousness” (verse 8). What did Paul say about God’s judgment (Rom. 2:5-11)? Who will judge the world at the end of time (Acts 17:31)?

3. The Lord will not forsake all those who put their trust in him and seek him (verse 10). What did the author of Hebrews write concerning this (Heb. 13:5-6)?

4. The Lord remembers the poor (verse 12 and 18). What did Paul write concerning the poor (Gal. 2:10)?

5. It is good to show the Lord to others after he helps you and saves you (verses 13-14). What does Peter say about this (1 Pet. 2:9-10)?

6. The wicked reap what they sow (verses 15-16). What did Paul write about this (Gal. 6:7-8)?

7. Many people forget God (verse 17). What will God do to all those who refuse to know him (Rom. 1:28)?

8. It is good to fear (reverence) God and remember that we are just men (verse 20). What did Herod experience regarding this principle (Acts 12:22-23)?