

THE RIGHTEOUS LOVE OF GOD

Meeting God in the Psalms: Psalm 9

November 7, 2021

*I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of your wonders
The Lord has reigned forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.
He will judge the world in righteousness;
he will govern the peoples with justice.*
Psalm 9:1, 7-8

Reading Psalm 9

A. Individual Praise (vv. 1–2)

B. Judgment on the Wicked: A worldwide perspective (vv. 3–6)

C. Hope in God's Just Rule – even during seasons of tribulation (vv. 7–10)

A'. Communal Praise (vv. 11–12)

B'. Judgment of the Wicked: My prayer (vv. 13–18)

C'. Hope in God's Just Rule and my part in it! (vv. 19–20)

1. Psalm 9, with Psalm 10, forms an imperfect acrostic – both tell the story of God's triumph over evil

2. Psalm 9 turns our attention to how God works among the nations

3. Practice listening for the Jesus resonance in Psalm 9:

-- God's nature revealed in his "wonders"

-- salvation guaranteed by God's righteousness

"If God were to wait until we – by our faith, our virtues, and good works . . . – had made ourselves worthy, in part or in whole, to receive his favor, the restoration of communion between him and ourselves would never happen, and salvation would forever be out of reach for us." Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*

-- Jesus' future (and present!) reign in righteousness

Beginning with my response of praise

- ¹ I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.
- ² I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
- ³ My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you.
- ⁴ For you have upheld my right and my cause;
you have sat on your throne, judging righteously.
- Psalm 9

1. In this lament, the psalmist _____ with praise
2. God's "wonders" are the ways we see his character at work:
 - God's redemption miracles in Psalms (see 106:7,22; also Job 5:9, 9:10 and Exodus 3:20, 34:10)
 - God's good work in our lives (Psalm 71:17 and the refrain of Psalm 107)
 - expressed powerfully in his Word (Psalm 119:18,27) and creation (Psalm 139:14)
3. In the psalms, God's righteousness is less forensic and more relational

What I learn about the tough side of God's *hesed* love

- ⁷ The LORD reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.
- ⁸ He will judge the world in righteousness;
he will govern the peoples with justice.
- ⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
- ¹⁰ Those who know your name will trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
- Psalm 9

1. God's reign has always been a special place for us "oppressed"
 - righteousness (*tsedek*, "honest" in Lev. 19:36; Prov. 12:17; "justice" in Eccl. 3:16; Isaiah 59:4)
 - justice (*mesarim* or *mishpat*, "fair" in Prov. 1:3; 2:9; "equity" in Psalm 96:10; 98:9)
2. God's *hesed* royal love is _____ without his justice (see HC Lord's Day 9)
3. God's _____ is the blessing (see Spurgeon's "Dilemma and Deliverance")

Getting ready for God's justice to reign

- ¹³ O LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
¹⁴ that I may declare your praises in the gates of the Daughter of Zion
and there rejoice in your salvation.
¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
¹⁶ The LORD is known by his justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. *Higgaion. Selah*
¹⁷ The wicked return to the grave,
all the nations that forget God.
¹⁸ But the needy will not always be forgotten,
nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.
¹⁹ Arise, O LORD, let not man triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
²⁰ Strike them with terror, O LORD;
let the nations know they are but men. *Selah*
- Psalm 9:13-20

1. Praise begins _____ the congregation

2. Sin carries its own penalty

²⁸ *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

Romans 1

3. Lament is missional – there is always a focus on the nations (and it's not all judgment!)

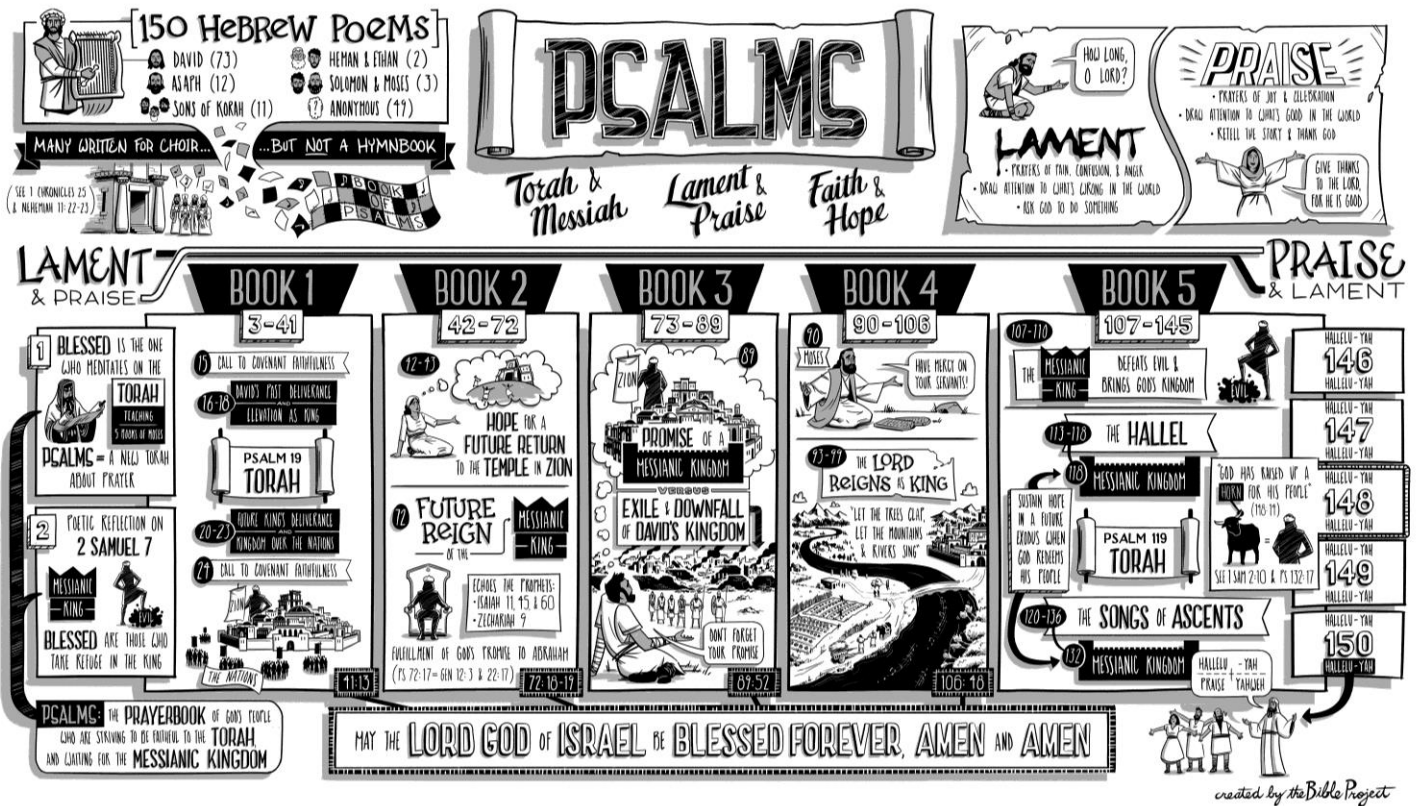
*“The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him.”*

Romans 15:12 (quoting Isaiah 11:10)

4. I am invited to join in Messiah's righteousness project – don't forget the needy

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Matthew 5



Resources for the Psalms

Please be sure to have a copy of the [Bible Project's poster](#) on the Psalms.

I appreciate the bibestudytools.com study of Psalm 87 in the "Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary" series. I've attached this study to my notes.

Dr. [Ron Allen has a wonderful study](#) of Psalm 87 in "Biblioteca Sacra".

James E. Smith's *Wisdom Literature and Psalms* (College Press, 1995) has been a very helpful resource. The *Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Zondervan, 1991) has a helpful commentary on the Psalms.

I can see Dr. Ron Allen's influence in the study notes on the Psalms in the *Nelson Study Bible* (Thomas Nelson, 1997). This is a NKJV text Bible which gives a wonderful new translation to read.

Enduring Word has a good intro to Psalm 9 at <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/psalm-9/>

Tabletalk has a wonderful article on Psalm 118 at <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/reading-the-psalms-with-luther/>

See Spurgeon's Psalm 9 sermons "Tender and Terrible" at <https://www.spurgeongems.org/> and "Dilemma and Deliverance" at <https://ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons06/sermons06.ii.html>

I've included thoughts on God's righteousness by Herman Bavinck and B. A. Milne in the *New Bible Dictionary* (IVP).

John Samson's blog has a wonderful interview with Pastor Elly Achok Olare at <http://effectualgrace.com/2017/03/07/psalm-91-and-the-word-of-faith/>