

THRU THE BIBLE EXPOSITION

Psalms: God's Nurture Of The Inner Man In The Life Of Faith **IX. Asking God For Relief From Oppressors Based On His Past Help** **(Psalm 9:1-20)**

I. Introduction

- A. The Biblical life of faith is never a blind launch into the future, but a rational walk based on God's precedents.
- B. Psalm 9:1-20 teaches this important lesson for us in the life of faith (as follows):

II. Asking God For Relief From Oppressors Based On His Past Help, Psalm 9:1-20.

- A. Verse one in the Hebrew text comprises the introductory remarks in the English Bible (Kittel, *Biblia Hebraica*, p. 981), but we stay with the numbering system in the English translations for clarification in this lesson.
- B. Thus, Psalm 9:2-20 shows David asking God to rescue him from his current foes based on God's past help:
 - 1. "I will praise You, O Jahweh, with all my heart; I will recount (*saphar*, B. D. B., A Heb.-Eng. Lex. of the O. T., p. 707-708) all of Your extraordinary (*pala'*, Ibid., Kittel; Ibid., B. D. B., p. 810) [acts]," Psalm 9:1.
 - 2. "I will be glad and exult in You; I will make music to Your Name, O Most High," Psalm 9:2.
 - 3. "When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish from Your presence," Psalm 9:3.
 - 4. "Because You have upheld my just, rightful due (*mishpat*, Ibid., p. 1048-1049) and my plea, cause (*din*, Ibid., p. 192); You have sat on Your throne judging righteously," Psalm 9:4.
 - 5. "You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out [from memory] (*mahah*, Ibid., p. 562) their name forever and ever (*le'olam wa'ed*, Ibid., Kittel, p. 982)," Psalm 9:5.
 - 6. "[As for] the enemy, desolations in perpetuity (*lanesah*, Ibid., B. D. B., p. 664) have overtaken [him]; You uprooted (*natash*, Ibid., p. 684) cities, the memory (*zeker*, Ibid., p. 271) of them is perished," Psalm 9:6.
 - 7. "But Jahweh will sit enthroned forever; He has established His throne for judgment," Psalm 9:7.
 - 8. "And He (emphatic pronoun, Ibid., Kittel) will judge the world with righteousness; He shall exercise judgment on the peoples with equity, uprightness (*meshar*, Ibid., B. D. B., p. 449)," Psalm 9:8.
 - 9. "Jahweh exists (*hayah*, Ibid., Kittel; Ibid., B. D. B., p. 224-228) [as] a securely high stronghold (*mishgav*, Ibid., p. 960) for the oppressed, a securely high stronghold (*mishgav* again, Ibid.) for times of [narrow] straits, distress [from threatening foes] (*sarah*, Ibid., p. 865)," Psalm 9:9.
 - 10. "And they who know Your Name will fully confide in, lean upon (*batah*, Ibid., Kittel; Ibid., B. D. B., p. 105; Robert B. Girdlestone, Syns. of the O. T., 1973, p. 104) You, for You, Jahweh, have not forsaken them who seek (*darash*, "seek a deity in prayer," Ibid., B. D. B., p. 205) You," Psalm 9:10.
 - 11. "Sing praises to Jahweh Who sits enthroned in Zion, proclaim among the peoples His deeds," Psalm 9:11.
 - 12. "For He who avenges blood remembers (*zakar*, Ibid., p. 269-271); He does not forget (*shakah*, Ibid., p. 1013) the 'outcries of distress' (*se'aqah*, Ibid., p. 858) of the afflicted (*'anaw*, Ibid., p. 776)," Psalm 9:12.
 - 13. "Show me favor (*hanan*, Ibid., p. 335-336), O Jahweh, see how my enemies persecute me, and lift me up from the gates [fig. for ruling entities, cf. Z. P. E. B., v. Two, p. 656] of death!" (Psalm 9:13)
 - 14. "In order that (*lema'an*, Ibid., Kittel; Ibid., B. D. B., p. 775) I may declare all Your praises in the gates of the daughter of Zion and rejoice in Your salvation," Psalm 9:14.
 - 15. "The nations have fallen in the pit they made, their feet are caught in the net for catching birds (*reshet*, Ibid., p. 440) that they have [secretly] concealed (*taman*, Ibid., p. 380) [for others]," Psalm 9:15.
 - 16. "Jahweh is known by the judgment He does; the wicked is ensnared in the work of their hands," Psa. 9:16. ["Higgaion" and "selah" = likely musical terms, H. C. Leupold, Exposition of the Psalms, 1974, p. 114.]
 - 17. "The wicked shall be turned to Sheol [the place of the departed dead, Ibid., Z. P. E. B., v. Five, p. 395], and all the nations that forget (*shakah*, v. 12) Elohim," Psalm 9:17.
 - 18. "Because the needy (*'ebyon*, Ibid., B. D. B., p. 2) shall not be forgotten (*shakah*, v. 12, 17) in perpetuity (*lanesah*, v. 6), nor the hope of the afflicted (*'anaw*, cf. v. 12) forever perish," Psalm 9:18.
 - 19. "Arise, Jahweh, let not man (*'enosh*, "mankind as insignificant, inferior," Ibid., Kittel; Ibid., Girdlestone, p. 50) triumph; let the nations be judged in Your presence," Psalm 9:19.
 - 20. "Appoint terror (*moreh*, "some awe-inspiring exhibition of power," Ibid., B. D. B., p. 432) for them O Jahweh; let the nations know that they are [but] men (*'enosh* again, v. 19)," Psalm 9:20.

Lesson: David asked the Lord to rescue him from wicked oppressors based upon His past similar deliverances.

Application: May we recall God's past help over wicked foes as the basis for calling on Him about today's foes.