

## Psalm 9-10

Tonight we want to just jump straight into Ps Ch 9 and since the Psalms are largely independent of one another we can do just that. Even though it's been a # of weeks since we've been here there's no need for an extended rehearsal of where we've been because Ch 9 is independent of Ch 8. and So with that we can simply begin right here in Vs 1.

and Where we read that this psalm is "To the Chief Musician, to the tune of 'Death of the son.' A Psalm of David." If you have on OKJV, or a NASB your bible reads, "To the tune of Muthlabben" which is a word that means, "Death of the son." So many of the translators have simply taken the liberty to tell you what that word means as opposed to putting something in there that we would have a clue as to it's meaning. So either way you have it, it means the same thing. and As for what exactly that means we're uncertain, some think perhaps it revolves around the death of David's 1<sup>st</sup> son with Bathsheba, I lean more toward it revolving around the death of Absalom (if it has to do with one of his sons at all). It's possible that it has nothing to do with one of his sons but that it's written to another tune with that title. Be that as it may we read beginning in Vs 1.

### Vs1-2

What's in view here? Whole hearted worship, so many times we worship ½ heartedly, rather reservedly, we're distracted by what others may be thinking personally. David disregarded all of that and committed to the Lord that he would worship before the Lord whole heartedly. That he would pour himself out completely before the Lord, praising Him, rejoicing in Him, singing from the deep recess of his being to Him. Just giving all that he had to the Lord, like Mary, remember her. There she was (John Ch 12) less than a week away from Passover, that day when the Lord would slain as the Lamb of God that He might take away the sins of the world. and They were preparing a supper for Him, Martha was serving (you know the story), and here comes Mary and she takes an alabaster flask of what the bible calls "very expensive" spikenard, beautifully fragrant oil. Its worth was up to about a year's wages, probably her life savings, it was all she had. and She broke open the flask and she began to anoint the Lord, she poured it over His head, she poured it over His feet and began to wipe it with her hair, there she was at the feet of Jesus just worshipping with all that she had, with her whole heart. and I have no doubt that the fragrance remained upon Him, and upon her for quite some time, perhaps a couple of days later as you would draw near to Mary, or to the Lord you could still sense the fragrance. There was a mutual aroma about them, and it was a beautiful thing, having spent time together she went away with the same fragrance about her that there was about the Lord.

Now think about it, the disciples no doubt enjoyed the aroma as well (though they didn't understand the heart of what was going on, they were taken back a bit by what she'd done, seemed to them to be a bit of a waste) but when they left the room, there was no lingering fragrance upon them, nothing lasting about the experience for them. But for Mary the ramification of that time lasted a good long while. 2 Things, #1 Anything you give to the Lord is never a waste, and if it costs you nothing, it probably means nothing.

David said that He refused to make an offering to the Lord with that which cost him nothing. Why, because if it costs me, it means something to me to give that to the Lord, it represents a piece of my heart, of who I am, there's sweat equity, my livelihood represented there. But if I just picked it up for a buck from the flea market, or was going to throw it away anyway, there's not much heart behind that. So when I give of myself to the Lord, in any way, shape, or form it's never a waste.

#2 I won't get a whole lot out of my time spent with the Lord if I'm not there to offer all that I am to the Lord, to worship with my whole heart. You ever come to church and as long as you're there you're thinking, "This is kind of cool," there's a "sweet aroma" (if you will) in the atmosphere, and it's nice to be around. But before you're even ½ way home it's like, it's gone, there's no real lingering, or lasting effect to it. Let me suggest to you that, that may be because what you've entered into is the aroma of someone else's whole hearted worship experience as opposed to bowing your heart at the feet of Jesus yourself. I mean, you're here, and you want to be here, but "I don't know; I'm just not into it like that." and So you enjoy the time you're here but the fragrance doesn't really follow you home. David might say to you, Mary would echo his position, "Worship the Lord with your whole heart, be glad and rejoice in Him, sing praises to Him, the Most High."

You know it wasn't long after the event of worship that transpired between Mary and Jesus that the disciples were arguing over who would sit at His right hand, who would sit at His left, but there wasn't anyone vying for the position to be sitting at His feet. Let me tell you there's plenty of room at the feet of Jesus. Plenty of room for those people who will worship the Lord with all that they have.

### Vs3-5

Few things here real quick #1 notice that there's no confusion in David's mind who does the work and who gets the glory. I think that in our minds at times it gets a bit cloudy, but with David it was real clear. "My enemies perish at Your presence, You have maintained my cause, You're on the throne, You judge in righteousness, You rebuke the nations, You destroy the wicked, You blot out their name forever." Now David is obviously referencing a battle or some encounter with his enemies whereby he overcame them, drove them back and the fell before him. Yet He knows that it's the Lord who gives him the victory, and he's quick to give the credit and the glory to Him accordingly. God will often times use human vessels, the likes of you and me, yet don't be deceived the work is all His. We're simply an instrument in His hand, when I pick up my guitar it yields itself to me completely, and so even though music comes forth from it, it's because it's been subjected to my hands. That's the way we are with the Lord, there may be grand and glorious things that come forth occasionally from our lives, but it's the result of us being made subject to His hands. If He doesn't "pick us up and use us" we'll sit there on the stand collecting dust, so if any good comes from our lives, it's the result of Him using us. and David is recognizing that, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt 5:16 So good works are to come forth from our lives, but it's to the praise and the glory of God who's used us.

#2 We notice this phrase in Vs 4 that God is on the throne judging in righteousness. What does that mean? It means that the judge of all the earth does right, what about that guy in the rainforest of South America, what's God going to do with him if he's never heard? I'll tell you what He'll do, He'll do what's right because He sits on His throne judging in righteousness. Remember when Ab was trying to rationalize with the Lord about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? and Ab's concern was that the righteous might perish along with the wicked, that God might just wipe them all out and in so doing the godly would suffer the penalty of the ungodly. and He said, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Gen 18:25 and The answer is, "Yes, the judge of all the earth will do what's right." and He's able to spare the righteous while reserving the wicked for judgment.

3<sup>rdly</sup> notice in Vs 5 that with regard to the wicked it says that He has "blotted out there name forever and ever." Blotted out there name from what?

It's mentioned in the book of Ex Ch 32, and again in the book of Rev 3:5 where Jesus said, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." There is a book in which God inserts the name of all those who've trusted in His Son, it's called the book of life. The name of the wicked is forever blotted out, whoever refused to come to Christ, their name won't be inserted into that book, it's wiped away forever.

Vs6-8

You see everyone is going to get a fair deal when it comes to the judgment of God, because He administers judgment for the peoples in uprightness. and We note the contrast in Vs 6 and 7 the enemy may be able to lay to waste various things, cities and people's but his cause is futile in regards to the Lord, because He shall endure forever. The bible declares, "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." Ps 90:2 The Lord shall endure forever, and He's prepared to deal with the wicked.

Vs9-10

What a great word of encouragement for times of trouble. "The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. and Those who know Your name will put their trust in You." Translation; to know the Lord, is to trust the Lord. and I might add that the more you know Him, the more you trust Him. This phrase, "know Your name" is synonymous with saying, "know You," that is, "know Your ways, Your word, Your character, Your heart." The proverbs declare, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe." Proverbs 18:10 Isaiah tells us, "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength." Isaiah 26:3-4 Those who know His name will put their trust in Him. "For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You." What a precious promise, God's not looking to flee from you, to be found far from you, if you seek for Him He'll be found by you when you seek Him with your whole heart.

That's what the bible declares, but again give attention to the fact that God wants your whole heart, not ½ of it. Draw near to Him, and He'll draw near to you. The Lord declares through Isaiah, "I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, the Lord, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right." Isaiah 45:19 He will not forsake those who seek Him, that's God's promise to you and me.

#### Vs11-12

So he won't forsake those who seek Him, nor does He forget the cry of the humble. What precious promises of the word of God. and Note the 2-fold exhortation of Vs 11, "sing to Him, and share about Him." Sing to Him, lift up your voice in praise to Him, and declare His deeds among the people. God has done things in your life, let people know about it, because everyone else is a lot like you are. Prone to discouragement, easily dissuaded and brought down, and we need to be encouraged to keep in mind God's faithfulness. How He brings victory to our lives and won't forsake those who seek Him, nor forget the cry of the humble. When we hear what God has done in your life, it undergirds us so as to trust God for the struggles in our own lives. Sing to Him, share about Him, declare His deeds among the people.

#### Vs13-16

What's he saying here? He's saying that the fact of the matter is that sometimes it seems like everything in life is falling down around us, but we can always (even if nothing else) rejoice in God's salvation. That we've been saved from sin's penalty, we're being saved from sin's power, and we'll be saved from sin's presence, because the depravity of man is increasingly obvious. The nations are sinking down into the pit of sin that they've dug out for themselves and it's never worth it to forsake the Lord and resort to wickedness.

That's what he's saying there in Vs 16 where he declares that the Lord is known by the judgment He executes and that the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Then there's the word, "Meditation" and then "Selah." It's like a double pause, stop and think about it, being wicked, unrighteous, simply isn't worth it, your sin will find you out and God will deal with you accordingly.

#### Vs17-18

Right now, by and large those in need, the poor of this world are pretty much overlooked and forgotten about. and That's because in the big picture the world is an ungodly place, and when you forget God, then you forget about others and look to serve only yourself. You're not worried about helping anyone else, you're looking out for #1 and if someone else has to get less in order for you to get more then that's the way it has to be. But it won't always be that way, the day is coming when God's going to set things right. In the meanwhile it's important that expectation of the poor be in the proper place, and that's not in man, but in the Lord. We have a tendency to look to the government, or to someone or some system to meet our needs and we expect certain things from them and they're not always able to deliver. and As far as the greatest need of man is concerned they're never able to deliver.

Our expectation and trust needs to be in the Lord. Because it's only there that our expectation meets a guaranteed end. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Vs19-20

What's he talking about here? Proper perspective, man has the tendency to place himself in an exalted position, think of himself more highly than he ought. Here David is crying out to the Lord that He might remind those who think that they're in power that they're in reality powerless, and that the best of men are at best only men.

## Ch 10

Vs1-2

He's saying, "They've dug a pit Lord, let them fall into it themselves, they've rolled a stone may it roll back on them." He's calling out for what we might call "poetic justice" and God has this way about Him of organizing just that. Pharaoh wanted the Hebrew baby boys thrown in the Nile and his entire army was drowned in the Red Sea, Haman had the gallows made for Mordecai but wound up swinging on them himself, God just has this way of turning the tables on those who come against His own. Proverbs 5:22 says, "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin." Sin is sticky like a spider's web, and it just has this way of entrapping you.

But David begins this Ps by asking, "Why, why?" Why do You stand afar off, O Lord, why do you hide in times of trouble. and We all know that, that's not a theological reality, but nonetheless that's the way we feel sometimes. We feel like the world is crumbling around us and God seems to be so far from us. But don't overlook the fact that when he felt this way he went to the Lord about it, was honest regarding the way he felt, and looked to God lift him up and out of that frame of mind. But he's saying, "This is how I feel, and this is what I see." But in coming to the Lord about it by the time he's finished he'll realize God hears his cry, that his prayer is heard and that ultimately God's deliverance is total. Our minds just have this way of getting tweaked, yet if we'll just take our cares, our concerns, our struggles and stresses to the Lord, and just get on our face before Him and cry out in honesty to Him, He has this way of bringing things into proper focus, recalibrating our minds to the big picture, the eternal perspective.

The overall thrust that comes into view here over these next several Vs is the fact that pride is a problem, so much of the world's wickedness finds its roots in pride.

It's out of pride that the wicked persecute the poor, place themselves on a pedestal, forget that they're just men. It's out of pride that they bless the greedy (as we'll read in a moment) and renounce the Lord, think they have no need of God, doesn't feel the need to seek God, comes to the place where he literally believes there is no God, it's pride that pulls these things out of man.

## Vs3-4

Or more literally, “All of his thoughts are, ‘There is no God.’” Pride sees no need for God therefore out of pride man denies that there even is a God. and Once you remove God, you remove accountability, and once you remove accountability you cast off restraint. Do whatever you want to whoever you want. and It wasn’t until the time of David that the scriptures record the fact that there were any atheists on the planet, before his generation we have no record of atheism. As a matter of fact just the opposite had been true in human history until his time, today people who believe there’s no God seem to be easy to drum up, but up to this point they weren’t around, why? Because they were too close to the reality of creation to deny its reality. Think about it, Noah knew a man who knew Adam, and when you’re that close to the time of creation you’re not apt to deny the existence of God. When God gave Moses the 10 commandments He gave 2 commandments against polytheism (the worship of and belief in many gods) but not a single command against atheism, why? Because there wasn’t a soul on the planet who didn’t think there was a God, but by the time David comes onto the scene he mentions atheism over and over again. and Here is one of those times, and at the root of atheism is pride, this man boasts of his hearts desire, blesses the greedy, renounces the Lord, tells himself over and over again that there is no God.

## Vs5-11

How often people mistake the longsuffering of God, and the patience of God for a lack of perception, they think that God doesn’t see them. That they’re getting away with it, they do things secretly, they lurk in shadows not realizing the fact that like David said, “If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.” Ps 139:11-12 There is nothing we can say but that God doesn’t hear it, nothing we can do but that God doesn’t see it. and Because judgment doesn’t fall immediately people think they’re getting away with it, the fact is that God gives people a chance to repent. But make no mistake He hasn’t forgotten and He surely sees and contrary to what men may think God will require an account.

## Vs12-13

You see, people renounce God because they have no fear of God.

Now as David has been spending his time before the Lord, pouring his heart out to the Lord, he begins to be placed into the proper perspective. Perhaps he’s felt a certain way, seen things from a particular point of view, but the truth is that God sees it, and He’s going to deal with it in His time.

## Vs14-15

God sees, God hears, and God helps. and Here in Vs 15 David is calling upon the Lord break the arm of the wicked, which is another way of saying “squelch his strength” “The arm” speaks of the strength, “The strong arm of the Lord,” speaks of His power to save. So David is asking for a complete purging of wickedness. and I like that, and God help us to come in agreement with that as it relates to our lives personally. That God might break the arm of wickedness in me, that He might purge me completely, seek out any wickedness in me until He finds none.

That He might search me and try me, know my anxieties, and be there any wicked way in me may He lead me in the way everlasting. There’s a side in all of us that wants to rear it’s ugly head dip in to those things we ought not be apart of when we think that perhaps the Lord isn’t looking, when maybe He doesn’t see and won’t require an account. It’s called the flesh, and oh that God would break that guys arm in me, purge me completely, and when we see Him we’ll be like Him, for then we’ll see Him as He is.

## Vs16-18

Prayer is heard, and deliverance will be total, and complete. So David began saying, “Lord, where are You? Why do You hide in times of trouble? Why do the wicked prosper?” He begins with a question, but ends with a solution as the result of time spent in prayer. He poured out his complaint to the Lord, talked things over with the Lord, and came to a conclusion about the Lord.

and So to with you and so to with me, we may come to God perplexed, but as we spend time in His presence, persistently, consistently seeking Him, on our face before Him God has this way of reminding us that He hears our cry, nothing has escaped His attention, He has a plan and that He’s in control.

## Prayer Points:

God we thank You for the comforting reminder of the fact that You know us and are familiar with us, and will never leave us nor forsake us. Keep us far from the snare of pride, may we be humble before You, usable by You. and Lord teach us to worship You freely, with all that we are, with the fullness of our heart, singing to You, sharing with others about You, that more might come to know You and be encouraged by You.