

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING FOR THE LORD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS (PSALM 9)

To the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Death of the Son." [or "to die for the son"-almut labben] A Psalm of David.

[**Psalm 9** is a prayer and thanksgiving for the Lord's righteous judgments. First of all, that is to acknowledge and to believe, as we are told by God through His prophet Isaiah, "Remember the former things of old [how can we remember? We have His Word and our own testimonies!], for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me." (**Isaiah 46:9**) And then also, we are reminded by God's Word that He is perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and His Works (**Deut. 32:4**). So, we CAN trust God in His righteous judgments. And presently, as it has been revealed to us, the revelation of Christ Jesus, that God's redemptive plan for mankind (including us) was/is in Christ Jesus Who died on a cross for our sins, taking our sins upon Himself to the grave, and He then rose from the dead on the third day, and that He completely, definitively conquered death, sin and evil, as He is far superior to all of that, and then too, that WE will overcome death, sin and evil and have eternal life in and through Him, that is, of course, to all those who will believe on Him and receive Him (**John 1:12-13**) and put their trust in Him. Jesus had the following dialogue with His disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled [do not worry]; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions [monai (moh-nay): place to live]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place [topos] for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.**" Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I AM in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I AM in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." (**John 14:1-11**)

In addition and in support of what Jesus had said, the Apostle Paul had this to say about Christ Jesus, "He [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is

before all things, and in Him all things consist.” (**Colossians 1:15-17**) The writer(s) of Hebrews also expands that for us by saying that God “has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

(**Hebrews 1:2-4**) So then, through Christ Jesus, who has overcome the world, of which resides, death, sin and evil, to those who will believe on and receive Him, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, we are then promised, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, IF indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be **glorified together**. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (**Romans 8:16-18**) Therefore:

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Psalm 9:1-2 I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

[Just in those two verses we get, what we call, the “Great Commission” from Jesus and the “Great Commandments” from God. After Jesus had risen from the grave and had appeared to His disciples/apostles He gave them what we call His “Great Commission”. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (**Matthew 28:18-20**) Obviously the apostles did their part and now that commission is for us to pass on to the present and future generations, for however long Jesus tarries. When Jesus was asked what is the first commandment of God, Jesus replied, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (**Mark 12:29-31**) Combining then the Great Commission with the Great Commandments gives us the phrase that we are “sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus!” We are “being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (**Philippians 1:11**), to bear the “fruit of the Spirit [which] is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

That all takes place as we have an active relationship with God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. The Apostle Simon Peter reminds us, that they and we are "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious [THAT IS our testimony!]; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. [as Jesus said, "**For many are called, but few are chosen.**" (Matthew 22:14)] But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:4-10) "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."

The subtitle of this **Psalm 9** says, "To the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Death of the Son." [or "to die for the son"-almut labben] A Psalm of David." It might not have been quite as popular a tune as "The Lilies" of **Psalms 45, 60, 69, and 80**. The "almut labben" is more closely translated to mean "almut": to die, "labben": for the son. Yet we do have the death of THE SON, which is our primary testimony or song, yet it can be said that we are dying "for the Son". "If we have been united together in the likeness of His death [surrendering to the will of our Heavenly Father], certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man [of disobedience] was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be **slaves of sin**. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him." (Romans 6:19) Yet we've all sinned against God and are still given the choice to go His way (the right way **Psalm 107**) or our way. Yet the Apostle John tells us "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2) Just prior to that he assures us saying, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)]

Psalm 9:3-8 When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence. For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat

on the throne judging in righteousness. You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. But **the Lord shall endure forever**; He has prepared His throne for judgment. **He shall judge the world in righteousness**, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

[**Psalm 96:10** says, "Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously." There is but one way that we are righteous! In Christ alone who is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) In the end, as Jesus is recorded as saying in **Matthew 25**, that God will gather all of us together and will separate the sheep (those who are His) from the goats (those who are not). We are reminded by the Apostle Paul, as he says, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay**," says the Lord." (**Romans 12:19**) It is guaranteed as Jesus says, "**Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended**, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness [a-nomia] will abound, the **love of many will grow cold**. But he who endures to the end [in Christ Jesus] shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (**Matthew 24:9-14**)]

Psalm 9:9-16 The Lord also 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**; for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. ["He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him". (**Hebrews 11:6**)] **Sing praises to the Lord**, who dwells in Zion! **Declare His deeds** among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble. ["Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:10**)] Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation. The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; in the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. The Lord is known by the judgment He executes; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah.

[Meditation-Selah are considered to be musical notation. Yet, as it is with this Psalm and in God's Word, we are to continue to meditate on His Word and His promises that He will right the wrongs, He WILL avenge His people, and administer His justice accordingly to His

perfect justice, at any time He chooses and ultimately as it concerns His eternal plan. **Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."]

Psalm 9:17-20 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah

Presently, the only ones we know of who are our enemies are in the spiritual realm. The Apostle Paul tells us, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (**Ephesians 6:11-13**) That armor of God is all in Christ. Truth, righteousness, the gospel of PEACE (He is our good news and He is the Prince of peace), faith, salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Then Paul continues by saying, "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints". (**Ephesians 6:18**) As our **Psalm 9** today is a prayer and thanksgiving for the Lord's righteous judgments, and that in Christ we are found to be righteous and holy as He is holy, we can, as the Apostle Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand [is near]. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**" (**Philippians 4:4-7**) "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." "Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. **I will rejoice in Your salvation.**"

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes." (**Romans 1:16**) "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God." (**2 Timothy 1:7-8**) And let us praise the name of the Lord together!