

## Psalm 9 – THE LORD NEVER FORGETS HIS OWN! (Part 2)

**III. THE LORD REMEMBERS THE HUMBLE – V 11-14** – Praise is more than nice words coming out of the lips of God’s people. Nevertheless, it does not mean that praises are not important. Praises declare the LORD’s doings to others, especially God’s people. The LORD dwells in Zion, which was another name for Jerusalem, the spiritual and political capital city of Israel. Literally, the word “Zion” means “Guiding pillar”, like a sign. The LORD is that “Guiding Pillar” to Israel, and Israel in turn is a sign to the whole world! This is the focus of David’s praise and should be every believer’s too! The privilege given by the LORD to a nation such as Israel is a high honour. Israel was to reflect the grace and mercies of God. The LORD was the centre of David’s praises. From the next few verses, we see that David’s praises were from experiential knowledge rather than head knowledge.

One of the things to bear in mind with the presence of the LORD in the midst of His people is that He is holy and He will punish all according to His standard, including His people who sin. Therefore, when He makes inquisition for blood, the guilty must beware! He remembers all who sinned against Him. They are the ones who refuse to humble themselves by repenting of their sins. The LORD does not expect perfection from His people, but holiness. This means that the ones who repent of their sins are the ones who would humble themselves and admit that they have sinned against God. They need the cleansing blood of Christ to wash away their sins. Here, David says that the LORD remembers sinners and he will not forget the cry of the humble. David states it negatively because at times, we think that the LORD may have forgotten us as we face the many trials of life. They are so heavy to bear and painful to endure. We think that the LORD has forgotten His own. However, He will not forget His own, especially those who cry to Him for help.

The cry of the humble is for mercy, nothing else. David, the man after God’s own heart, did not even dare to refer to the goodness and service that he had done for the LORD in Israel as the basis for his cry. He did not appeal to his kingship or his relationship with the LORD in his cry. It is as if David cried to the LORD admitting that he deserved the persecution of his enemies simply because he was a sinner like everyone else, even though he was not guilty of this particular sin. God’s mercy means His withholding the punishment that we deserve. David cried to his LORD to consider the trouble that he was suffering at the hands of those who hate him. He was not guilty of any sin, and yet David cried for mercy. What a revelation as we look into our own lives. All too often, in our perceived sense of righteousness, we forget that whenever we approach God, it is by His mercy and never our right that we approach Him! The persecution was so great that David likened it to a near death experience. He said that the LORD lifted him up from the gates of death.

Based upon such a great deliverance from the LORD, David said that he would show forth all His praises in the gates of the daughter of Zion, which means Jerusalem, as the use of the singular imply. The gate is a place of business and important meetings. David would tell all who enter in and go out of Jerusalem that the LORD was his Deliverer. He would rejoice in God's salvation. A personal experience with his LORD is the heart and soul of his sincere praises!

All too often, either we have nothing to praise the LORD for, or we give perfunctory praises. It is because we have little experiential knowledge with God. This is the sad state of affairs in many believers' life today! When our lives are lived in light of God's holy Word, and the LORD is constantly our Guide and Companion, our praises would be real and sincere, from our hearts like David.

**IV. THE LORD EXECUTES JUDGEMENT – V 15-16** – The ones who refuse to humble themselves before the LORD and remain obdurate in their sins will not escape God's judgement. They have fallen into their own snares. The traps that they made for David, they have fallen deep into them. They covered their traps with nets and they have fallen through their own nets. The LORD's reputation is that He will judge righteous judgement! This is the law of *lex talionis*, whereby the judgement that the enemies mete out on others, the same will return to them. This kind of just judgement happened to Haman who built the gallows to hang Mordecai, God's servant. Instead, Haman himself was hung from it. David ended this section with the use of the musical notation, *Higgaion*, which means meditation with a solemn sound. There is no delight in the punishment of the wicked. It is a sad day even when one's enemies are justly punished by the LORD for the sins they committed against God's children. The use of SELAH is to pause and ask the hearer to ponder and meditate over what David has just written.

The LORD protects His own. He will never allow anyone to hurt or harm His children. If they do, it will not turn out for their good especially when His children stand on the side of the LORD doing His holy and perfect will.

**V. THE LORD PREVAILS OVER HIS ENEMIES – V 17-20** – Injustice prevails all over our sin-sick world. Evil and wicked men continue to get away with all sorts of crimes and sins, including sins against God's people. These wicked men were bent on committing evil deeds. However, David says here that the LORD will turn them in the direction of Hell, by force if necessary. These will include nations that forget God! The enemies of David were more than just individual men. They also included entire nations that were filled with sin and wickedness. The might of nations and strong men are nothing in the sight of God. The LORD turns them in any direction

He desires as He turns the waters that flow from mighty rivers. He will turn them toward the direction of Hell where they will die, and punished for all eternity. The nations that forget God include all Gentile nations; God will use His creation to condemn these Gentile nations and He will use His Law to judge the nation of Israel.

The LORD will not forget the ones in need. They are the ones who are destitute of all help and material things for the LORD's sake. They have sacrificed families, and friends and health, the security of homes and the comforts of life for the sake of the LORD. David had experienced them all. The times of persecution were times of pain and loneliness, as if the LORD has forgotten His own. However, David says that they will always not be forgotten. In times of need, their expectation of the LORD coming to their help will not perish but will be fulfilled in God's time! God's children must not doubt the LORD's love and care in the face of painful trials and tribulations.

David cried to the LORD to arise and not to let man prevail, i.e. to have the last word and final act of sin. Let them all be judged in the sight of the LORD! He cried to his covenantal LORD to prevail over all of his enemies, who were also the LORD's enemies, since David was doing the will of the LORD. He may be David's LORD but He is also the Creator of the whole heaven and earth! Therefore, all men must stand before Him and be judged by Him. There is no escape. The LORD is not only the God of Israel but of the whole world. Make these nations afraid of God so that they may personally know that they are only men or mere mortals. David contrasted their mortality and frailty with the LORD's eternality, power, and might. Kings and presidents, with their might against other men, believe that they are great. They have invented spacecrafts that can propel men into the stratosphere and made medical advancements that prolong life. They have made overwhelming technological advancements in the past 50 years. We throw away toys with computer chips inside them that are obsolete which nations, during the Second World War, would kill to obtain. Yet all these are nothing in the sight of God, for mortal man is frail and foolish before God. The fear of God will cause man to see their frailty and their accountability to the Creator who created him.

**CONCLUSION** – The feeling of being forgotten by the LORD in the face of great persecution is a frightful consideration. David felt it and penned this psalm for our encouragement. The LORD will, in His time, deal with the heathens who persecute His children. No one can escape His judgment. The humble who repent of their sins and turn to the LORD will be remembered by the LORD. He will surely deliver them. All the LORD's enemies will be punished and all His children will be vindicated in the end. God's children must continue to

praise Him as they see His hand leading and guiding them through difficult waters. His children will never be alone or lonely. He will comfort, help and strengthen them in due time.