

**Title: God's Judgement is assured.**

9 I will praise *You*, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all Your marvelous works.  
2 I will be glad and rejoice in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.  
3 When my enemies turn back,  
They shall fall and perish at Your presence.  
4 For You have maintained my right and my cause;  
You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.  
5 You have rebuked the nations,  
You have destroyed the wicked;  
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.  
6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever!  
And you have destroyed cities;  
Even their memory has perished.  
7 But the LORD shall endure forever;  
He has prepared His throne for judgment.  
8 He shall judge the world in righteousness,  
And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.  
9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed,  
A refuge in times of trouble.  
10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.  
11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion!  
Declare His deeds among the people.  
12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them;  
He does not forget the cry of the humble.  
13 Have mercy on me, O LORD!  
Consider my trouble from those who hate me,  
You who lift me up from the gates of death,  
14 That I may tell of all Your praise  
In the gates of the daughter of Zion.  
I will rejoice in Your salvation.  
15 The nations have sunk down in the pit *which* they made;  
In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.  
16 The LORD is known *by* the judgment He executes;  
The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.  
Meditation. *Selah*  
17 The wicked shall be turned into hell,  
*And* all the nations that forget God.  
18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten;  
The expectation of the poor shall *not* perish forever.  
19 Arise, O LORD,  
Do not let man prevail;  
Let the nations be judged in Your sight.  
20 Put them in fear, O LORD,  
*That* the nations may know themselves *to be but* men. *Selah*

10 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?  
*Why* do You hide in times of trouble?

<sup>2</sup> The wicked in *his* pride persecutes the poor;  
 Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*; *God is* in none of his thoughts.

<sup>5</sup> His ways are always prospering;  
 Your judgments *are* far above, out of his sight;  
 As *for* all his enemies, he sneers at them.

<sup>6</sup> He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved;  
 I shall never be in adversity."

<sup>7</sup> His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression;  
 Under his tongue *is* trouble and iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> He sits in the lurking places of the villages;  
 In the secret places he murders the innocent;  
 His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.

<sup>9</sup> He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;  
 He lies in wait to catch the poor;  
 He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

<sup>10</sup> So he crouches, he lies low,  
 That the helpless may fall by his strength.

<sup>11</sup> He has said in his heart,  
 "God has forgotten;  
 He hides His face;  
 He will never see."

<sup>12</sup> Arise, O LORD!  
 O God, lift up Your hand!  
 Do not forget the humble.

<sup>13</sup> Why do the wicked renounce God?  
 He has said in his heart,  
 "You will not require *an account*."

<sup>14</sup> But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief,  
 To repay *it* by Your hand.  
 The helpless commits himself to You;  
 You are the helper of the fatherless.

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*;  
 Seek out his wickedness *until* You find none.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD *is* King forever and ever;  
 The nations have perished out of His land.

<sup>17</sup> LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;  
 You will prepare their heart;  
 You will cause Your ear to hear,

<sup>18</sup> To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
 That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

### **Introduction**

Why am I joining Psalm 9 with Psalm 10?

There are a number of answers to that question.

In the Greek and Latin versions of the Bible these Psalms are united as one Psalm.

Also if we were able to read Hebrew we would notice that these Psalms follow an **acrostic pattern**.

This means that a different letter of the **Hebrew Alphabet** is used at the beginning of each line of the Psalm.

There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and in verse one of Psalm 9 the Psalm begins with the Hebrew **equivalent to the letter A**.

In verse 2 it begins with the **equivalent of the letter B**.

**Psalm 9 is the first half of the Hebrew alphabet and Psalm 10 is the second half.**

So for a Hebrew speaking Jewish person it would be very unnatural to break up these two Psalms.

Psalm 9 and 10 flow into each other perfectly, joining up the pattern as one Psalm.

The one theme that is taught throughout these two Psalms is that **God's judgement is assured.**

We live in a world today where there seems to be no justice towards the poor and the oppressed.

There also seems to be no justice and judgement for the nations who are oppressing God's people all over the world.

Today there are over 500,000 Christians in prison or labour camps in North Korea.

Many of these people die from lack of food.

There are 50 countries in the world today where it is very dangerous to be a follower of Jesus.

**What has God's word got to say to people today who suffer for being a disciple of Jesus?**

The answer is that God still reigns on His throne in heaven and He judges individuals and nations.

God's work of judgement is taking place even now, and it will also take place in the future through His Son Jesus Christ.

Paul teaches us in Acts Chapter 17 verses 31 that **God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.**

Hebrews Chapter 9: v. 27 says that it is **appointed for men to die once, but after this is judgement.**

Although it may appear that some people escape God's judgement now, they will definitely not escape God's judgement after death.

As we look at Psalm 9 & 10 together, we will focus upon four things concerning God's judgement that the Psalmist David wants to teach us.

Before we do this it is important that we notice verses 1-2 of Psalm 9.

In these verses, David praises God because he doesn't fear God's judgement.

David was a man after God's own heart. He knew God's love, protection and forgiveness.

Today the people who **need to fear the God of the Bible, are the people who don't know Him personally through Jesus Christ.**

So let us look at the first thing that David teaches us about God's judgement from Psalm 9 and 10.

### **1. Psalm 9 & 10 teach the promise of God's judgement. (9: v. 9-12. 10: v. 17-18.)**

It is wonderful to know that the things that God promises to do in the Bible, He will always execute and deliver, according to His time scale.

In this Psalm, David has the confidence that God will not forget the cry of his afflicted people.

**Exodus Chapter 3: v. 7-8.**

<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

God promised to deliver His people from their oppression in Egypt.

He did this in a wonderful way, through Moses and by judging the gods of Egypt.

God did this by sending 10 plagues.

**God fought for His people in judgement.**

David tells us in Psalm 9: v.10 **that God will not forsake those people who put their trust in Him.**

In Psalm 10: v. 17-18 David assures us that **God brings justice to vulnerable people.**

The fatherless and the oppressed are highlighted in these verses.

God speaks in judgement for people who have no voice in the world today.

The question we might ask is how does God work today to bring justice and judgement to the fatherless, the oppressed, and God's people who live under persecution?

**The simple answer is that He usually uses people, just like you and me.**

We may not feel that as a Church we can do very much for the poor and oppressed in the world.

However, we have a regular **fund for the needy offering here at O.I.C.**

The Church Council try to send these offerings to places where the money is used in an **effective and compassionate way.**

By giving our money we are part of God's provision for these oppressed people.

Our next "Fund for the needy" is on the 16<sup>th</sup> September when we will be supporting the "**House of Hope**" ministry in Bethlehem.

It is a Christian ministry providing hope and help to blind and special needs children in the Bethlehem area.

In early September we will be educated about this ministry, so we can give with full knowledge of where our money is going and what it is being used for.

There are a number of large organisations in the world that specifically target support for persecuted Christians.

The two largest organisations I know are Open Doors and the Barnabas fund.

I have met both of the founders of these organisations, and God has definitely used them to raise awareness of the needs of the persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Money through these two organisations have provided millions of pounds in direct aid to Christians all over the world. There are many other organisations world-wide that are working today as an instrument of God's hands.

There isn't time to share the many stories of how God is working today to bring help to those who are oppressed and to those who cry to God for help, but I can assure you that God is working today as He has promised to do in the Bible.

God works both in judgement to those who do evil, and gives help to those who are persecuted or oppressed.

## **2. Psalm 9 & 10 Teach us of the power of God's judgement.**

**(Psalm 9:5-6, 13-14.10:16)**

Let us look at verse 5-6 in Psalm 9.

<sup>5</sup>You have rebuked the nations,

You have destroyed the wicked;

You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup>O enemy, destructions are finished forever!

And you have destroyed cities;

Even their memory has perished.

God is powerful enough to bring judgement upon nations that oppose God's people.

God is powerful enough to destroy the wicked, and even to destroy whole cities and organisations that work against His plans.

In Genesis Chapter 19 we are told the story of God's judgement upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed these two cities because of the sinful behaviour of the people.

**The one sin that is highlighted is the sin of sexual perversion.**

Today we call it being "Gay".

God was very unhappy about the sexual perversion in these two cities, however He sent two Angels to rescue Lot and his family before He destroyed these cities.

**Lev. 18: v. 22**

<sup>22</sup>You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

**Lev.20 v.13. In N.K.J.**

<sup>13</sup>If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

**In America today it is reported that 25% of the population of both men and women are living sexually perverted lives.**

Fifty years ago in the U.K., it was against the law for men to engage in sexual activity with other men. Sadly, now it is celebrated by many, and those who oppose it are silenced and condemned by others. There are only 74 countries out of a total of 195 left in the world where sexual union in gay relationships is illegal.

If God hates this sin and calls it an abomination, then it will not be very long before God judges this world for this sin.

The second coming of Jesus Christ and the judgements contained in the book of Revelation are **not very far away.**

In 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2: v. 3 we are informed that a great rebellion against God and His word will come first before the return of Jesus.

We are living in those days now.

However, our job is to rescue people with the gospel message of God's grace.

**The closer you draw to God and understand sin, the more you will hate living in this world, with all of its sinful behaviour.**

In v. 13-14 David is giving a testimony of God's mercy, lifting him up from the gates of death and placing him in the gates of Zion.

**David is referring to his "Salvation"**

David was delivered out of God's judgement **in order to be a witness for Him.**

The New Testament reference that connects with David's statement here can be found in **Colossians Chapter 1: v. 13 (in N.K.J.)**

<sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

If you are a Christian today, you have been rescued from God's judgement.

**Jesus Christ has taken the punishment for your sin.**

Our sin has been judged by God. We no longer are under the wrath of God.

We have been set free from eternal condemnation.

This is the wonderful message of the gospel of God's Grace.

We all deserve God's punishment for our sins.

However, when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are rescued from Hell and God's judgement for our sins.

### **3. The Paradox of God's judgement in Psalm 9 & 10. (9:12, 10:1,5,10,11)**

God does not always judge as we expect Him to.

God is sovereign in His judgements.

We don't always understand the way in which God decides when to act and when to wait.

**Psalm 10: v. 1.**

Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?

Why do You hide in times of trouble?

David was on the run for 10 years. He waited 10 years for God to bring judgement to King Saul.

For David it was a delay. For God it was an opportunity to strengthen the character and faith of David.

**In Psalm 10: v.5 David says that God's ways are always best.**

David didn't understand all of God's ways but he **trusted that God knew what He was doing in his life.**

**This is a very important point for our lives today.**

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we become one of God's children.

He loves us, He cares for us, and He provides for what we need, when we need it.

God always has a **higher purpose** when we have to go through times of suffering and hardship.

**James Chapter 1: v. 3-4. (N.L.T.)**

<sup>3</sup>For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup>So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

The idea that James is trying to communicate with his readers is that **suffering produces a godly character that God is able to use for His purposes.**

Suffering can force us to draw upon God's resources, because we don't have strength in our own resources to face the trials by ourselves.

Vance Havner said this:

“God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.

It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume and it is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever.’

Ian MacLaren said this:

“The highest joy to the Christian almost always comes through suffering.  
No flower can bloom in paradise which is not transplanted from Gethsemane.”

David knew that growth in grace came through the hard times in life.

When we go through the difficult times in our lives, God is investing in our future blessing.

#### 4. **Psalm 9 & 10 teach us the principle of God’s judgement. (9:15-16, 10:15.)**

Psalm 9: v. 15-16 in the N.L.T.

<sup>15</sup> The nations have fallen into the pit they dug for others.

Their own feet have been caught in the trap they set.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD is known for his justice.

The wicked are trapped by their own deeds. *Quiet Interlude*

At the end of v. 16 in the N.K.J. The English word “**meditation**” is inserted.

In the N.L.T. is uses the word “**Quiet Interlude**”.

It comes from the Hebrew word “**higgaion**”.

This word challenges us to **pause and think about these verses.**

David is asking us to consider the ways of evil people and evil nations.

David tells us that the **wicked eventually are snared in the work of their own hands.**

Galatians Chapter 6: v. 7-8.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

David is saying that the consequences of evil catch up with a person slowly.

Evil may seem to be successful in the beginning but in the end the evil person will be caught up in the consequences of their own evil deeds.

Rebelling against the God of the Bible and His word, always ends up being entrapped into a life-style that never satisfies the heart.

**God wants us to enjoy life in the way and order that He has created.**

If we rebel against this order, create our own rules and standards, then we will never be fulfilled in our lives.

In the U.K. alone there are now 3,000 same sex marriage couples who have adopted children. Most of them are adopted as babies.

**What is life going to be like for these 3,000 children?**

What influences will take place in their early years that will shape their future minds?

God’s word says that these children will be “trapped” by their parent’s sinful perversion.

However, we can thank God that these children can still be rescued by the power of the Gospel. We can only pray that one day some of these children will be rescued by Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

Now for two applications from Psalm 9 and 10.

#### 1. **God’s judgement upon our lives is 100% certain.**

If we are not a Christian today, we will never escape God's judgement for our sins. Therefore, we need to understand that God's desire is that all people will come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

### **2 Peter Chapter 3: v. 9.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

### **God is waiting for you to come to Jesus and repent of your sin.**

#### **Revelation 3: v. 20.**

<sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

If you feel that God is knocking on the door of your heart, then today, please don't harden your heart against Him.

Ask God to forgive your sin, because of Jesus.

Jesus died to pay the penalty of your sin, and you can be rescued today.

However, you need to come to Jesus.

If you are a Christian today, then judgement is taking place continually in your life.

As believers, repentance from our many sins is needed, not for eternal Salvation, but for a deep fellowship with Jesus, and with our fellow believers in Christ.

This judgement is not concerning our destiny, but for adjustment in our lives, and for future rewards in Heaven.

### **1 Corinthians 3: v. 8-16 in the N.L.T.**

<sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. <sup>9</sup>For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

<sup>10</sup>Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup>Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup>But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. <sup>14</sup>If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

<sup>16</sup>Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

I have discovered that people who are growing in grace and growing closer to Jesus seem to repent a lot, and also ask the Holy Spirit to remove things in their lives that they know are a hindrance to their walk with God.

## **2. God's "Grace" in our lives is 100% certain.**

If you read about David's life in the Bible you will discover that he made some mistakes. He was not perfect but God showed grace towards him because of Jesus Christ.

As a result of this David understood God's Grace in his life.

God was determined to fulfill His purposes for His chosen people, through the life of David.

God wants Christian believers to really understand God's grace in their lives, and if they do then they will be able to administer God's grace towards those who are not yet Christians.

Understanding that we do not deserve or merit God's favour in any way helps us to understand the word "Grace".

God's grace is His unmerited favour towards us because of Jesus.

We are only special in God's eyes because of Jesus.

Our resurrection and eternal life in heaven is only possible because of Jesus.

The Bible says that all of our righteousness is like filthy rags in God's sight.  
We have nothing to offer God, but everything to receive from Him, because of Jesus.  
When we fully understand God's Grace, then we are able to love other Christians and also, not-yet Christians in a different way.  
Fully understanding our Salvation by grace is the greatest motivation to reach out to lost people who don't know Jesus yet.  
May God help us to understand His "Grace".