

Sermon Series: Singing in the Reign  
**Sermon title:** "The LORD is on His Throne"  
**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 9:1-20  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
July 24, 2022  
S.C. Brown, Pastor

**Introduction:**

In the early days of the 20th century, 2 schools of thought battled for supremacy at Harvard University and American society at large.

Would Harvard, (a Christian school) , lean more toward Humanism or the Bible.

In 1905 Harvard University built a new building for the Department of Philosophy called Emerson Hall, named after Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It was decided that on the front of the building a motto would be chiseled into the granite facade to encapsulate and express the department's ideas.

The professors chose a quote from the Greek philosopher Protagoras which read, "*Man is the measure of all things.*"

Well, while the professors were on summer holiday, the construction continued, and the President of Harvard, C.W. Eliot had the workers inscribe something else.

Instead of "*Man is the measure of all things*" he had chiseled, "*What is man that thou art mindful of him?*"

Psalm 8:4

Humans have always struggled with God and his rule over us. We have 2 ways to live. We live under God's rule or we self-rule.

But the Bible is clear that we are all creatures and God is the righteous judge who sits on his throne, ruling over his creation with goodness and justice.

Well, what should our rightful response be to God?

### **Let's pray**

As we will take a look at the Psalms over the next several weeks, I'd like to begin by giving some introductory remarks about the Psalms in general.

The Psalms are a great gift to us. They are songs and poems that give us great insight into who God is and into who we are. And in them we find our rightful place in God's universe.

**Robert Godfrey** said, "The Psalms are not only God's inspired word to us but the Psalms are words God has given us to speak to him."

So the Psalms are honest prayers and songs, many of which were written by David, that can teach us how to pray and how to praise.

My hope today as we look at Psalm 9 is to help us understand what God wants us to see here.

### **A few things about Psalm 9.**

Psalms 9 and 10 go together.

Whether they are one Psalm or two is up for debate.

You'll notice that Psalm 10 has no title.

And Psalms 9 and 10 form an Acrostic of the Hebrew alphabet, each first word starting with the next letter.

Like Psalm 9 is letters A to L and Psalm 10 is M to Z etc.

We know David wrote it but we don't know what occasion or occasions he is referring to in it.

The first line says this, "*According to Muth-Lab-ben*". This phrase could mean 'death of a son'. Some people take that to mean Absalom's death, but that doesn't seem to fit.

The ancient Chaldea translation says something like, "*Death of the son between the two camps*". Some take this to mean he is referring to the death of Goliath in this Psalm. Maybe he is and maybe he is thinking back to it as he faces a new enemy.

We don't know.

What's important is what we learn about God from this Psalm.

### **Main idea of Psalm 9.**

*God is the sovereign righteous judge.*

He is on the throne. He rules over all things.

He is the judge. All must give an account to him.

We see this in several places in this Psalm.

## **Verse 4**

You have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.

## **Verses 7&8**

The LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

## **Verse 11**

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion!

## **Verse 15**

The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment.

## **Verse 19**

Let the nations be judged before you.

So, David sees God as judging the world in righteousness from his throne.

But David doesn't want us to just know this fact. Like, oh yeah God is the judge and he's on the throne... that's cool.

In light of who God is, David points us to do 3 things:

- I. We should praise God.**
- II. We should trust God.**
- III. We should fear God.**

## **I. We should praise God.**

### **Verse 1**

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

David is recounting in this Psalm some of the things that God has done for him.

What has he done for you?

Have you taken the time lately to 'RECOUNT'...to tally up all of the wonderful things that God has done?

### **Verse 11**

Sing praises to the LORD who sits enthroned in Zion.

### **Verses 13 & 14**

O you who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may recount all your praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in your salvation.

When was the last time you took a good chunk of time to just sit and thank the LORD with your whole heart and recount all that he has done for you...and praised him and rejoiced and sang to him?

We should praise God for his sovereign rule over our lives.

We should not only be led to praise him but to trust him.

## **II. We should trust God.**

We can count on God to do what is right.

David puts his trust in the Lord and so should we.

### **Verse 9 & 10**

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. All those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

### **Verse 12**

For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

## Verse 18

For the needy shall not always, be forgotten and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

David says here that the Lord is a stronghold.  
He's a great place to run to when you're in need.  
He is powerful enough to be relied on.  
He sees everything and he remembers everything.  
He can be trusted.

Because God is the sovereign righteous judge, we should praise him and we should and can trust him to help us.  
But because God is the sovereign righteous judge, we should also fear him.

### **III. We should fear God. (All people)**

When we see God as judge, we should shudder.  
We will give an account of our lives to him.

I want you to see a contrast here.

## Verse 17

The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.



## Verses 19 & 20

Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you! Put them in fear, O LORD!  
Let the nations know that they are but men!

### **Forget God or Fear God.**

Those who forget God....who have no place for God and his rule in their lives...those who give him no praise, don't trust him with their lives....they go to Hell.

David pleads with God here..... "Arise O LORD" is like "Now...God. Go get em."

What does he ask God to do to the nations?

"Let the nations know that they are but men!"

"Men" here means "*mortals*".

Let the nations know that they are creatures and that you are the Creator. "*Put them in their rightful place God! Under your rule.*"

Don't let them forget you God but let them fear you.

Humanism puts the creature at the center. Forget about God.

The Bible has God at the center. The Creator.  
So, we should fear him, a holy kind of fear.

Is there any hope for any of us as we stand before God?  
With our lives opened up before him, what are we to do?

There's only one thing that will help us at that point:  
cry out for MERCY.

But a righteous judge can't just give free mercy to  
criminals.

You either have to pay for your crimes or someone else  
has to pay....but there must be punishment.

Enter Jesus. He died in the place of sinners.

He was judged for us.

If we believe in him and the work that he did, we will  
receive mercy.

Read **Acts 17:24-31**

Close by meditating on **Psalm 9:1-2** and prayer.