

When Pain Becomes Your Pulpit

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Psalm 9

Superscription is verse one in the Hebrew-Background of the Psalm
This was to the choir director, flutes. "The death to the Son." Often the superscription will identify the enemy. This one was probably talking about the enemies of Israel.

Hosea says about Israel: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son."

Davidic Covenant: "When your sons sin, I will discipline them with rods, but the throne of Judah, I will not take away." Of course Christ sat on the throne of Judah. "To as many as believed upon Him to them He gave the right to become sons of God., even those who believe in His name.

Old Testament-The Monarchy-Christ-The New Testament

Jesus said, If they call the head of the household Beelzebub, if they hate you know that they hated Me first.

Do not be amazed at the fiery trial...If the world hates you, don't be amazed.

In our world, the cry toward the Christian is "Muth Laban." -death to the Son.

The religion of our day:

No final truth. No one can know...
If there is truth, it's inside of you.
All men deserve to be happy
No one can judge me.

Whenever Christians speak it's because-God has spoken. "There is a way that is right unto a man=the end thereof is death." There is right and there is wrong. There is judgment and consequences for sin.

"Our cry is 'repent and believe' Their cry is Muth Laban: Death to the Son

How many disciples died a natural death? Only one, John.

Now, let's watch Psalm 9:

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL THAT THE WORLD HAS GATHERED AGAINST YOU?

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

² I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

³ My enemies turn back;

they stumble and perish before you.

⁴ For you have upheld my right and my cause,

sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.

⁵ You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;

you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

⁶ Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,

you have uprooted their cities;

even the memory of them has perished.

⁷ The LORD reigns forever;

he has established his throne for judgment.

⁸ He rules the world in righteousness

and judges the peoples with equity.

⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,

a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,

for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion;

proclaim among the nations what he has done.

¹² For he who avenges blood remembers;

he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

¹³ LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!

Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴ that I may declare your praises

in the gates of Daughter Zion,

and there rejoice in your salvation.

¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;

their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.^(c)
¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.
¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.
¹⁹ Arise, LORD, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
²⁰ Strike them with terror, LORD;
let the nations know they are only mortal.

PSALM 2: Why do the nations rage and the people rise up against me?

When you turn on the light: Moths go towards the light and cockroaches flee.

This is the psalm of the cockroaches.

Verses 1 and 2, David makes a vow to publicly praise God. "I'm going to talk to you, God, and I'm going to talk to men about your wonders." Wonder is a miraculous act where God intervenes. This is not a closed system of natural causes. God can create, angels can appear to men, God can speak. He can bring judgment. He can rule the nations. He can raise from the dead. The open system-the sovereignty of God.

"I am going to tell of His providences-the Red Sea, the walking on the water..."

I'll be glad, exalt in You, praise Your name. El Elyon-God Most High. It's the word Abraham used when he went to fight a five-king coalition. When the battle was won, the King and Priest Melchizedek said, Blessed by Abram, of El Elyon. God Most High, greater than all gods.

There are times in our lives that we have to wait on the faithfulness of God to come into our present and deliver us, guide us and save us.

THE HARDEST THING YOU EVER DO-YOU WAIT IN GOD'S PROMISES AND REST.
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME TO KNOW HIM.

David now reflects on the character of God.

1. When my enemies turn back-Deuteronomy 9:7-Mosaic Covenant. Your enemies will come against you one way and flee seven. This happened once in Jesus' life. When the Temple Guards came to arrest Him. Jesus said "I who speak to you am He." They fell back. It's what all the nations do when confronted with the glory of God. The nations are going to stumble and perish.
2. Verse 4-"You've maintained my right and my cause." God is not the genie to a wicked Jewish king, Do you remember when Saul went to the witch of Endor and called Samuel up. Samuel said, " If God will not talk to you, do you think I will?" When David sinned by murdering Uriah, did God bless Him? God judged him. Eli and sons tried to bring out the ark for victory. The Philistines captured the ark for blessing, then God slapped them with hemorrhoids. Remember "The Raiders of the Lost Ark?" The Germans said, if we have the ark, we'll win. No. He'll melt your face off...

GOD DOESN'T CATER TO WICKED MEN. HE BREAKS THEM AND BRINGS THEM TO REPENTANCE.

3. David says, "My cause is just." There is no greater joy than knowing you are right. You are the King Eternal. He remembers God's faithfulness, justice and God's might.

Verse 5: You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name for ever and ever. Do you remember Belshazzar, who drank from the sacred articles of the Temple. He scorned God and exalted the gods of wood and stone. All of a sudden there was a hand writing on the wall that wrote: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Today your kingdom is being taken away." Can God do that? When a King signs something, it cannot be revoked. Even if your beloved prophet is in the lion's den.

Often in the Old Testament God will say something like "I will wipe them like you wipe a dish." Ahab-the dogs are going to lick your blood. Jezebel-the dogs will dine on you."

Verse 7-Now he reflects on the sovereignty of God.

The LORD reigns forever;

he has established his throne for judgment.

Louis XIV-the Sun King. Built the Palace of Versailles. When questioned about something going against the state, he said, "I am the state." When he died, he asked that the chapel where he was entombed be dark, except for the one light upon his face. The Archbishop at his funeral took the candle and blew it out. Only God is great.

If you take the Book of Daniel, written about 586 B. C. and following, here are the things He says in Daniel that are going to happen:

Nebuchadnezzar's wings are going to be plucked and then he will be raised back up.

The Conquest of Babylon by Darius. Persia's ascendancy over the Medes. It happened. The ascendancy of Greece, Alexander the Great, died early, at 33. It happened. Four generals would take over his kingdom. One of them, Antiochus Epiphanes, rose to power and persecuted God's people. Six and a half years, the Maccabean revolt, just like it said. Two legs-Rome and Constantinople, east and West. Christ would come when he said. He would have nothing and would die. Israel would be scattered. Now we go to our future. Someday, Israel would return to the Land. Someday they would want to rebuild their Temple. Antichrist would come to power and give Israel the right to rebuild. 3 ½ years he would break his covenant. Seven years, Christ would return, judge man, and establish a Kingdom that would have no end. Daniel means "God is my Judge."

Mohammed Ali was flying in a plane. The flight attendant instructed him to put on his seatbelt. He said, "I am the greatest. I don't need a seatbelt." She said, "if you are the greatest, you wouldn't need a plane."

Verse 8:

⁂ He rules the world in righteousness

and judges the peoples with equity.

"lets go to Jerusalem that we can walk in His ways.

Isaiah 2: 4:

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into **plowshares**, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

I read ahead. We are going to win.

⁹The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

Are there still times of trouble? What you are full of is what comes out of you when you are jostled. Nahum: God is a stronghold and He knows them who take rest in Him.

Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Verses 11 and 12, David calls the nation to proclaim the glory of their unique God.

¹¹Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; (in heavenly glory)
proclaim among the nations what he has done.

¹²For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

When the Queen of Sheba wants to know who God is, she comes to King Solomon. When Pharaoh wants to know the mind of God, who does he go to? Joseph. When Nebuchanezzar wants to know the mind of God, who does he go to? Daniel.

Israel dropped the ball on this. They rebelled against Moses, against the judges, the Kings, prophets, against God's Son. They tried to kill Paul. And they have not frequented our church. Since Israel rejected Him, God gave the declaration of His praise to somebody else.

God requires blood. "Where is Abel?" Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The blood of Abel cries up from the ground. God paid the wages of sin with His blood. HE that requires blood remembers them.

God is not slow as some count slowness. But is patient towards you, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth.

The world says, "Why doesn't God judge evil?" You say "Great. God will start with you.."

Verse 13 is now in the first person singular, now not the nations declare God:

¹³ LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!

Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

Can we as Christians collectively talk about what God will do cosmically. We can also declare individually of God's grace toward us?

The Bible is full of names of Bathshebas, Esthers, Ruths, Dorcass, Marys, Elizabeths, and guys that they can all call out to God.

I was a young Methodist assistant pastor when I began. It was the only place I could get a job...in the late 60's early 70's the lay witness missions? Group of ministers who departed from the liberal trends and began evangelistic lay witness missions. The laymen would go to churches Wed. thru Sunday. They wouldn't preach. They would share testimonies. If you were in one of those churches and were part of the 'frozen chosen' they would be confronted with the fact that God draws individuals. I heard those testimonies of freedom from addiction and restored marriages. They came to Asbury Methodist. There was a little portly old lady everyone called "Granny" with little white granny curls in her hair. Her husband had laid the foundation of the church and her son was a Methodist minister. But on the last day, she came forward. She realized she had not received Jesus and God forgave both her sins! She became the most ebullient, effervescent Christian. A bunch of us received Christ on the North Texas team and she became our surrogate grandmother. She'd six us pork chops, salad with so much vinegar that it would make your eyes water, God doesn't just save us collectively, but individually. Me. He saved a wretch like me.

Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
¹⁴ that I may declare your praises

in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

YOUR PAIN IS GOING TO BECOME YOUR PULPIT IF YOU WAIT LONG ENOUGH AND TRUST HIM.

I talked to a girl yesterday who was going through a terrible time, and I reminded her that the same comfort God gave her would allow her to comfort someone else one day.

Tears are going to be your sermon. These Kleenex are going to be your notes.

¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,

I saw a picture of a man on a ledge and the policeman was talking to him. The next photo, the cop was out on the ledge with him, because he thought “there is no hope.”

Now, here is how God would judge them.

The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

He may not bring down fire as He did in Sodom. But, like Romans 1, if you have the standard outside of you-your inner compass is on rollers. It moves. You make all the chains you want, but they'd better be linked to concrete..

We have “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Christ’s death and resurrection and His final rule.

When you reject Him, He will say, “I will let your floating morality come down upon you and you will see Romans 1: God “gave them over to a failed mind” God lets the culture beat itself with its own stick. Sometime it’s more powerful to be struck with your own actions than to have a word on the outside.

¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.^[a]

Many ask me if God is going to judge America? The answer? He is! He is judging America. Go have sexuality without a standard. Go have gender without a standard. Have kids w/out a standard. Have life closing in on you with no hope.

When the Prodigal Son demanded his inheritance, the Father said "Take it"
The most terrifying thing a parent can say to a teenager is "Take off." He went from being a son, to working for a Gentile, to feeding his pigs, to envying the pigs. He came to himself and returned and said, "Father, I have sinned against you and against heaven. The Father ran to meet him. Pigs preach well.

Sometimes a rebellious daughter needs to get married. Sometimes a country needs a dustbowl and a depression. Sometimes Nebuchadnezzar needs to eat grass like a cow and lose his mind.

Tells the story of two Olympic wrestlers, they don't look like much on the outside. But when they were attacked outside of their hotel, it only took about a millisecond for the wrestler to fold up the attacker and force him to the floor.

Can God do that?

David said God is going to do that to the world someday.

the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.^[a]

¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.

The Moabites, the Ammonites, the Assyrians, the Egyptians-all gone! All archeological digs. And yet Israel is doing quite well.

David ends with a prayer:

¹⁹ Arise, LORD, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
²⁰ Strike them with terror, LORD;
let the nations know they are only mortal.

Jesus said, "take courage, little flock. The Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."