

PSALM 9

We know from history the ascendancy which has been gained by idolatrous nations--by the Assyrian, the Babylonian, and the Roman Empires. But where now is Nineveh or Babylon or the glories of ancient Rome? The memorial of the first two have been utterly sunk, and but little remains of the latter--and that little serves as a contrast between her ancient and her modern state. We know that the powers of darkness are permitted to have their hour. Then it is that men are tried, that faith is tried, that confidence in Almighty God is put to the test. But the Lord has never failed, and will never fail those who seek him. The patient abiding of the meek shall not be disappointed of its hope. And although vice and infidelity should for a time appear triumphant, yet ultimately the ungodly will be trapped in the work of their own hands, and the wicked and all who forget God shall be turned into the pit of everlasting destruction.

For the choir director; on Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.

- 1 I will give thanks to YAHWEH with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
- 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
- 3 When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence.
- 4 For you have maintained my just cause;
you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.
- 5 You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish;
you have blotted out their name forever and ever.
- 6 The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins; their cities you rooted out;
the very memory of them has perished.
- 7 But YAHWEH sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice,
- 8 and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.
- 9 YAHWEH is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- 10 And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O YAHWEH, have not forsaken those who seek you.
- 11 Sing praises to YAHWEH, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!
- 12 For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.
- 13 Be gracious to me, O YAHWEH! See my affliction from those who hate me,
O you who lift me up from the gates of death,

14 that I may recount all your praises,
that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in your salvation.

15 The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;
in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught.

16 YAHWEH has made himself known; he has executed judgment;
the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgsion. Selah

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

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

19 Arise, O YAHWEH Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!

20 Put them in fear, O YAHWEH! Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory to mankind through our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep your Church in continual godliness, and grant that all they who do confess your holy name may agree in the truth of your holy word, living in unity and godly love. Give grace to all your ministers, that they may set forth your true and lively word both in doctrine and life, and rightly and duly administer your holy sacraments. Give to us, your people, heavenly grace, that with meek heart and due reverence we may hear and receive your word so as to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Let your Spirit confirm those who are strong in the faith, and comfort, help, and strengthen those who are weak. Beat down Satan under our feet, and do not let sin have dominion over us, that we may rejoice in your salvation and partake of your everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.