

TIMELESS PRAISE

Friday, February 2

Reading: Psalm 9

***Psalm 9:7** 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.*

We are creatures of time. We think of things in terms of past, present, and future. That is how God made us. However, God is timeless. He lives outside of time. He created time! He sees the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9-10). Perhaps that is one reason we have so much trouble grasping the person of God. He doesn't fit into our categories.

In his song "Joy in the Journey," songwriter Michael Card has a wonderful term for believers. He sings that we "belong to eternity stranded in time." As such, we look at God's actions through the prism of time. And that is not a bad thing. It helps us recognize the faithfulness of God and trust Him more.

In Psalm 9, David views God's work in his life from the past, present, and future. In the past, David recognizes God as the **RIGHTEOUS JUDGE** (9:1-6). He remembers how God had judged his enemies in the past and "upheld my right and my cause." For this he rejoices and gives thanks. Have you thanked God for the victories and "wonderful deeds" He has already done for you?

David next looks into the future when the Lord will **REIGN FOREVER** (9:7-8). Today, the world is in a wreck, yet we know God is still in control and one day He will set all things right.

All this inspires David to have hope in the present because "the Lord is a **REFUGE** for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble" (9:9-20). Even though he is persecuted, David knows that the Lord does not forget His people. Listen to the wonderful hope we can have even when the present looks bleak.

"Those who know Your name trust in You, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You" (10:10)

"God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish" (10:18)

All this should make us, with David, break out in praise. Praise is central to living in difficult times. David mentions it four times in this short psalm (10:1, 2, 11, 14). Praise is more than just thanking God for what He has done. It also involves sharing His greatness among all nations. We aren't really praising God properly until we share the reason for our praise with others.

Jesus has promised never to leave or forsake us (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5). Does your faith based on the past and your hope for the future stir you to praise and witness in the present?