

Series: Psalms
Title: Refuge for the Oppressed
Text: Psalm 9: 9
Date: April 26, 2012
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Psalm 9: 9: The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

The word “also” means “in addition to” what has just been said about the LORD.

Psalm 9: 7: But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. 8: And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

The LORD God prepared his throne for judgment through the finished work of Christ Jesus our Lord. When Christ fulfilled the law, was made sin and bore the justice of God in his own body on the tree, our Substitute fully satisfied the demands of the law toward those chosen of God and given him in the everlasting covenant of grace. He established righteousness for the elect of God by his own obedience under the law and he himself is the LORD our Righteousness.

Now, at this present time, the GodMan, Christ Jesus, is risen to the throne of the Father. All judgment in heaven and earth is committed unto *the Son of man*—as God, all judgment was his, but now the Man who is God in our glorified human nature has all judgment committed unto him.

Psalm 9: 8: And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Indeed, in the last day he shall judge the world in righteousness. The believer’s judgment was accomplished on the cursed tree.

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

But even right now, Christ our Head is governing his body, as well as the whole world in all the affairs of providence, doing what is just and right for each individual child he has redeemed.

Psalm 22: 28: For the kingdom *is* the LORD’S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.

Psalm 103: 19: The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

David has testified in this Psalm that the power of God is not inactive from heaven. He is constantly exercising his governing power in his church and over the whole world in righteousness and equity.

Think on this, brethren. Our Substitute, who put away our sin by the sacrifice of himself, our Advocate who everlives to make intercession for us, our Judge who declares we are completely innocent of all guilt before his holy judgment seat is also our Governor, constantly, at every moment, governing with equity all our interest in this present evil world.

Our just Judge will execute judgment in our defense and for our deliverance. He will not deny his governing hand to those he has washed in his blood. We can be sure of that.

Psalm 9: 8: And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Now, you want to talk about security—the believer has security! If ever it appears by our feeble sense that this is not to be the case, rest assured, that our Judge is ministering judgment for his flock, for each one individually, in uprightness.

Trust the Lord, wait on the Lord, ask the Lord and exercise patience because our text tells us our LORD is ALSO something else for us...

Psalm 9: 9: The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

The one verse sums up the whole theme of this message. Read it again with me.

Divisions: 1) The statement of fact—*the LORD also will be a refuge*; 2) For whom is the Lord a refuge?—*for the oppressed*; 3) When is the Lord a refuge?—*in times of trouble*.

I. THE STATEMENT OF FACT—THE LORD ALSO WILL BE A REFUGE

The LORD is Jehovah God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the one true and living God in three distinct persons who particularly is manifest to us in Christ Jesus. He shall be a refuge.

A "refuge" is a protective shelter. The word here means "high tower." The Lord is the protector, the refuge, the high tower, the place of ultimate safety. So we can get in our minds eye a few descriptions that show us how strongly the LORD will be a refuge let me read 2 Samuel 22: 2-3.

2 Samuel 22: 2: And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; 3: The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

Remember how God appointed **cities of refuge**. A person guilty of manslaughter could flee into the city of refuge. The avenger of blood could not touch him as long as he stayed in the city of refuge. That city was a refuge, a protective shelter of safety for him. **Christ Jesus the Lord is that refuge.**

II. BUT FOR WHOM IS THE LORD A REFUGE?—FOR THE OPPRESSED

Oppressed means "to be pressed upon, to be defrauded, to be violated, to be deceived. It is to be dealt with unjustly, to be accused, to be cast down and trampled on by the oppressor.

There are many forms of oppression

- Many kinds of sorrows and afflictions in providence—rich getting richer and poor getting poorer
- Persecutions of men sometimes press us beyond measure, and above strength.
- The burden of sin
- Satan and his temptations
- The hour of death

But only the regenerated sinner knows true oppression and only the believer know the LORD is the refuge for the oppressed. All men suffer in this world. But there is a difference between the unbeliever and the regenerated child of God.

Men of this world see themselves as able to save themselves by themselves. The carnal man lives by the sword and dies by the sword.

- Natural man trusts in “a refuge of lies”
- “Under falsehood have we hid ourselves:”
- The city of refuge was of inestimable value to the man who had shed blood.
- The strong hold and fortified city was of great value to one who was pursued by an enemy

It is not until the regenerating Power of the Holy Spirit brings us to see our complete weakness that Christ becomes our complete stronghold and refuge.

But the child born of God does see. We have one refuge from all oppression—temporal and spiritual—that refuge is the LORD because through his gospel, by the Holy Spirit, **he has taught us his name.--Psalm 9: 10: And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.**

When God reveals his name—so that we know his name—they that know thy name WILL PUT THEIR TRUST IN THEE: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. His free grace and unchanging love in Christ will not let him forsake one of his own—therefore even when we were enemies in our minds by wicked works he drew us and taught us his name. And when he taught us that his name is the *Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God*—we were persuaded that he will not forsake us. And knowing his name we could do nothing else but seek him and we continue to find him wholly trustworthy.

Do you know his name? His name teaches us that he is our Refuge in all our oppression.

1. Do your sins oppress you and weigh you down, make you cry out under the awful weight? When God provided a substitute lamb to take the place of his son Isaac, in *Genesis 22: 14: And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh:...In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* In that very mount Christ Jesus the Lamb of God was seen—God saw to it, God provided his only begotten Son, the Lamb of God who took away the sins of his people by his substitutionary death on our behalf. Believer, when you are oppressed by your sins—remember his name—Jehovah Jireh—God has seen to it, God has provided his Lamb, and all who trust him are complete, perfected forever!

Hebrews 10: 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. What a refuge!

Those who know this name flee in faith trusting Christ our Refuge.

2. Brethren, are you ever oppressed by bitter waters of trial and temptation as you journey this wilderness? Sometimes we taste those waters and they make us so sick. When Israel came to the bitter waters that branch that was cast in made the waters sweet. The Lord said my name is *Jehovah Rapha—I AM the LORD that healeth thee* (Ex 15: 25-26.) Believer, when you are oppressed with the bitter waters and become sick in your soul, remember his name and flee to this refuge of healing. What a refuge! Those who know his name *Jehovah Rapha, the Lord that healeth thee*” will put their trust in him, they will flee to this refuge, he never forsakes them that seek him.

3. Do you ever feel so weak and helpless that you are like a lamb counted for the slaughter? All our oppressors are too mighty for us! Amalek came up from behind against Israel. But Moses held up the rod and Joshua the high priest fought and defeated Amalek—*Genesis 17: 15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: 16: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.* Has the oppressor come up from behind and taken you that are weak and helpless. As he wages war against you remember we have a refuge! *Jehovah Nissi the Lord our banner—we are more than conquerors through him that loves us.*

4. Do you ever try to find peace in this world—peace where there is no peace? It never works. We become more and more pressed down and find no lasting peace. When the Lord appeared to Gideon, **Judges 6: 23: And the LORD said unto [Gideon], Jehovah Shalom--Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.** His name is “I AM the Lord your peace.” “In this world we shall have tribulation”—but you who know his name, Jehovah Shalom—I AM the Lord YOUR peace—can “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” He has wrought peace for you with God dear saint—*fear not, thou shalt not die.* “My Peace I give unto you.”

5. Brethren, when false teachers make merchandise of your souls, when they would bring you back under the law and take away your Bread from heaven, take away the riches that are ours freely by his grace, and oppress you for righteousness and holiness you have only in Christ, oh, remember his name, flee to this refuge—his name is **the LORD our Righteousness.**

Jeremiah 23: 3: And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. 4: And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. 5: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6: In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS....***Jeremiah 33:16:...and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.*

He hath made that same Jesus both Lord and Christ. He prepared his throne for judgment. Our King reigns and prospers and executes judgment and justice in the earth. When he ascended he gave gifts unto men as he promised and continues to set up shepherds over them which shall feed them. ***And they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.***

6. Are you sometimes oppressed with loneliness, as if you are all alone with none to help? The name the Lord gives to his church in Ezekiel 48: 35—his guarded city—is **JEHOVAH SHAMMAH—I AM the Lord** is there. When we become oppressed and feel like the Lord has left us to ourselves, we are so prone to go somewhere other than to gather with Lord’s people to hear the good news of our Refuge?

- Jehovah the Father promises he is here
- Jehovah the Son, the Head of the church, the master of the family, promises he is here—as a son in his own house, the first born among his brethren, the prophet in the midst of his church, teaching us; the high priest in the midst of the golden candlesticks; the King showing himself in all the glories of his person, and the riches of his grace, according to his promise, “I am with you always” (Mt 28:20.)
- Jehovah the Spirit is here to apply the word, as a Spirit of grace and supplication, and to be your comforter, to guide you into all truth. **JEHOVAH SHAMMAH—I AM the Lord** is there.

Psalm 46: 4:...the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. 5: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early

I have told you this before, in Matthew 18: 20 the Lord Jesus said, “*where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*” Did you know it is Jehovah Shammah who gathers his children? He delivers us from all oppressors who prevent us from gathering with him.

Zephaniah 3: 17: The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. 18: I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.

The Lord's people are sorrowful when they cannot gather with his sheep. We are of Christ. The reproach of it is a burden to us. But the Lord will in his own due time and way gather such out of all places where they are, into his church, and among his people, to join with them in religious worship, and partake of all the ordinances and privileges of his house.

When Paul said in *Philippians 2: 12: ...now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14: Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*--one thing that means is "work out your daily affairs without murmuring and complaining because God is present—I am there—in the midst of his assembly, she shall not be moved, God shall help her, and that right early. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH—I AM the Lord is there. Flee to where he is.

7. Seventhly, his name is Jehovan Ra-ah—I am the LORD your Shepherd (Ps 23). When we are oppressed by this valley of the shadow of death, our great Shepherd, is the Refuge of green pasture where we lie down. He is our Refuge and Shepherd who prepares "*a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever*" (Ps 23: 5-6).

8. This Refuge, The Name above all names, is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, raised from the dead, ruling and reigning...*Acts 4: 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Proverbs 18: 10: The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

2 Timothy 1: 12: For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

III. LASTLY, WHEN IS THE LORD A REFUGE?—Ps 9: 9: *IN TIMES OF TROUBLE*

There are times when we realize trouble is near more than at other times—but truly we need the LORD every hour--All the believer's times in this life are times of trouble though we may not realize it. But notice the openness of this promise "*in TIMES of trouble*". It is not limited to a specific time—but in all TIMES of trouble. It is not limited to a specific trouble—but all trouble. Whatever the times, whatever the trouble, *the LORD will be a refuge to the oppressed in times of trouble.*

- He is never too busy
- His ear is never too heavy that he cannot hear
- His arm is never too short that he cannot save

Someone may ask, "How do I enter into this refuge?"

1. By faith—trust him—Psalm 9: 10

2. Assemble with his people—he has promised to bless us and comfort us through the gospel of his dear Son, where he has provided a faithful shepherd to feed his sheep—he is there.

3. Ask him—Ps 9: 13-14. Psalm 31: 15: My times *are* in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.

Believer, what a promise we have! What security we have! *He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness. The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed in times of trouble.* AMEN!