

Psalm 92

Introduction: When you get to the end of the week, for what do you thank God? This psalm was written to express gratitude to God at the end of the week for His loyal love and His faithfulness throughout the week. It is still used on Friday evenings by some Jews. The Sabbath was a test of faith and loyalty to God against the pull of self-interest. (Kidner)

Superscription: *A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day.*

- 1) ¹ *It is good ... to do 3 things—92:1-2*
 - a) Good (that which harmonizes with God's nature and plan)
 - i) For God's glory—it expresses our love and devotion for Him
 - ii) For our good—it liberates us from being self-oriented; it also leads to joy
 - b) To do what?
 - i) *to* [Hiphil infin.] *give thanks* (public acknowledgement) *to Yahweh,*
 - ii) *and to* [Piel infin.] *sing praises to Your name* (God's revealed nature and reputation), *O Most High* (Elyon; the Supreme Sovereign);
(1) cf. Gen. 14:17-24
 - iii) ² *to* [Hiphil infin.] *declare* (cf. v. 15) ...
(1) *Your loyal love in the morning*
(2) *and Your faithfulness in the nights* (i.e. every night),
- 2) How was this to be done musically?—92:3
 - a) ³ *to the music of ten-stringed instrument and a lute, to the melody of a harp.*
- 3) What has God done during the week to earn such gratitude?—92:4-5
 - a) Emotional response to the fact that God is active
 - i) ⁴ *For You have made me glad, O Yahweh, by Your work;*
 - ii) *I will sing for joy because of the works of Your hands.*
 - b) Evaluation of God's deliberate activity
 - i) Of God's external acts—⁵ *How great are Your works, O Yahweh,*
 - ii) Of God's internal thoughts—*Your thoughts* (moral designs) *are very deep.*
(1) Cf. Rom. 11:33
- 4) But not everyone responds as they ought to (he spiritual chaff of Ps. 1:4)—92:6-7
 - a) ⁶ *A spiritually stupid man does not know, a fool does not understand this, ⁷ that although the wicked sprout up like grass and all who are doing iniquity flourish, they will be destroyed forever.*
 - b) Among the plans and intentions of God is the judgment of the wicked. (Ross)
 - c) God allows the wicked to prosper temporarily so that he might reveal his justice. When the wicked are *destroyed*, God demonstrates that wickedness does not pay off. (NET)

- d) Their short-sighted worldview willfully disregards God's majesty. They refuse to believe that God will judge both evil and evildoers. They have a low view of God and a high view of themselves.
- 5) God stands in contrast to those who are destroyed—92:8-9
- a) God is eternal—92:8 ⁸ *But You* (emphatic) *are on high* (cf. v. 1) *forever, O Yahweh.*
- i) In stark contrast to the wicked who will be destroyed forever (cf. v. 7).
- ii) There are no gods greater than Yahweh, not now and never. He is the supreme, sovereign God over all. (Ross)
- iii) God is the standard and norm by which all exaltedness can be judged. (Motyer)
- b) ⁹ *For behold, Your enemies* (i.e. the wicked from v. 7), *O Yahweh, for behold, Your enemies will perish; all who are doing iniquity will be scattered.*
- i) The righteous need not fret over the actions and attitudes of the wicked.
- 6) The blessings (the “good” of v. 1) of the righteous stands in contrast to the destruction of the wicked—92:10-15
- a) Concerning the psalmist individually—92:10-11 (note “my, I, me”)
- i) Strength—92:10a ¹⁰ *But You have elevated my horn like that of a wild ox;*
- ii) Refreshment—92:10b *I have been anointed with fresh oil.*
- iii) Vindication—92:11
- (1) ¹¹ *My eye looks on my enemies;*
- (2) *my ears hears of the evil ones who rise up against me.*
- b) Concerning the righteous in general—92:12-15
- i) Godward flourishing—92:12-13 (both trees live for centuries)
- (1) Gracefulness—¹² *The righteous one will flourish like a palm tree;*
- (2) Dignity and stability—*he will grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.* ¹³ *Those who are transplanted* (not there naturally; Ps. 1:3) *in the house of Yahweh, they will flourish in the courts of our God.*
- (3) In contrast to the wicked sprouting and flourishing like grass in v. 7.
- ii) Godward freshness in our old age—92:14-15 ¹⁴ *They will still yield fruit in old age; they will be fresh and green,*
- (1) Contrasted with the world's quest to stay young. Believers can grow older fruitfully.
- (2) Why? ¹⁵ *to declare* (cf. v. 2) ...
- (a) God's righteousness stated positively—*that Yahweh is upright;*
- (i) God is only and always morally/ethically straight
- (b) God's impregnability and reliability—*He is my rock,*
- (i) God alone is worthy of my trust
- (c) God's righteousness stated negatively—*and there is no deviancy in Him.*
- (i) God never deviates from the perfect moral standard

- 7) Truths we need to remember
 - a) Almighty God blesses and preserves the righteous so that they praise Him for His powerful and righteous works, which include the destruction of the wicked and the exaltation of the righteous. (Ross)
 - b) Cf. Eph. 1:12; 2:7