



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS: SONGS FOR LIFE TOGETHER •
WORSHIP IN THE HAPPY & HARD TIMES •
PSALM 149:1-9 • 6/25/2023

MAIN POINT

God is worthy of worship, both in life's happiest and hardest moments.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Where do you turn for comfort when facing difficulty?

What are some ways that people seek comfort apart from God when faced with hardship?

People seek many ways to be comforted when facing hardship in life. Many people seek distraction or numbness to avoid the uncomfortable moments of life. However, the reality is that all people face hardship that is impossible to ignore at some point

in their lives. In Psalm 149, the psalmist called God's people to turn their focus on God in worship, even when faced with hardship from surrounding enemies.

UNDERSTANDING

READ PSALM 149:1-4.

What descriptions of God did the psalmist use in calling others to bring Him praise?

What type of actions did the psalmist describe as appropriate means of worshipping God?

How do our actions show the level to which we are focused on God in worship? Why does true perspective on God always call for exuberant worship of Him?

What comfort is there in verse 4 for those facing hardship?

In verse 4, the psalmist stated the wonderful truth that the Lord takes pleasure in His people and He adorns the humble with salvation. When we see God as He truly is, we cannot help but be fixated on His greatness and respond in awe-inspired worship. Even in the hardest moments of life, we can take comfort in the fact that the God of the universe takes pleasure in us and has made a way for our salvation through the person and work of Jesus.

READ PSALM 149:5-9.

What reason do those who are faithful have for continual celebration, even in the difficult moments of life?

How is worshipping God the best defense of His people when facing hardship?

Why could the psalmist speak so confidently of God's people's eventual triumph over their enemies?

Why is it right to say that it is an honor to be counted among God's people?

God's people always have reason to celebrate victory in Him. This doesn't mean that we will never face defeat or difficulty in this life. Despite what is claimed by some false teachers, we most certainly will face hardship in this life and often will face even more hardship as we follow Christ more faithfully. Yet, we can take heart and comfort in the fact that God will always have the last word and His purposes will always prevail.

Nowhere has this been made more clear than the cross of Jesus Christ. In Christ's death, it seemed as if evil had won and the purposes of God had failed. Yet, the resurrection of Christ gloriously showed the reality that God's purposes are never defeated, not even by death! Truly, it is an honor to be among those in whom the Lord takes pleasure in because of Christ. We can be certain that no matter what we face in life, He is always working for our good and will have the final word.

What difficult situation are you currently facing? How, specifically, will you choose to praise God in the midst of this difficulty?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Where are you currently having trouble seeing God's good purposes in a hard circumstance? How are you encouraged by this psalm?

How can you encourage others that God will always have victory and work for the good of those who trust in Him?

How might you share the gospel with others based on the truths of this psalm?

PRAYER

Pray and thank God that His purposes always prevail, no matter what we face. Ask Him to give you a heart of praise for Him and a desire to show His goodness to others in the midst of life's brokenness.

COMMENTARY

PSALM 149:1-9

149:1. Like so many psalms, this song begins with a call to worship God, summoning his people to praise the Lord. They are to sing to the Lord a new song, which can be even an old song sung in a new day with a new awareness of its truthfulness and importance. This praise is a boasting in the Lord to be sung in the public assembly of the saints. God's people are to join their hearts and voices together in declaring God's glory.

149:2. The saints should rejoice in the Lord, their Maker and King. He is Creator and controller of all things. Believers should be glad in him, even in the face of great

dangers (vv. 7-9). God's people should worship with much joy because the Lord rules over all.

149:3. The people are invited to praise his name, all his divine attributes, with dancing. In ancient Israel, great military victories were often celebrated with joyful dancing (Exod. 15:20), a spontaneous response to a supernatural triumph.

Accordingly, the people should make music... with tambourine, which is a timbrel, and harp, which is a stringed lyre. This praise should be offered to God publicly and passionately in anticipation of the victory he will give over their enemies.

149:4a. The psalmist provides clear, compelling reasons God should be so joyfully worshipped. First, the Lord takes delight in his people. Although they are hated and despised by the pagan nations who threaten them, they are deeply loved by God. This delight reveals the abiding pleasure the saints bring to God's own heart because they are his chosen inheritance (Pss. 35:27; 147:11). That they are the object of God's love and the source of his enjoyment should be the cause of much praise by the saints.

149:4b. Second, God crowns the humble with salvation. That is, he will grace the afflicted with his saving, sustaining mercy. Those afflicted with sin and suffering will be delivered by God as they place their trust in him. Those who confess their inadequacies will be given divine aid to overcome their enemies. Therefore, fervent praise should be given to the Lord.

149:5. In response to God's grace and goodness (v. 4), all the saints should rejoice in this honor of worshipping God. This honor is the undeserved privilege of being made the object of God's delight and deliverance. Their joy is so real that even when they lie down at night on their beds, they do so without worry. Because their confidence is in the Lord, they do so without panic. Adoration, not anxiety, floods their souls.

149:6. A mounting God-centered confidence continues to build in the heart of the psalmist. As the threat of war surrounds Jerusalem, the author calls upon God's people to have praise in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands. Worship and warfare are to be their dual commitment. These worshippers are to be aggressive warriors, fully engaged in fighting God's enemies.

149:7. As these worshippers go forth into battle, they will surely inflict vengeance on the nations, these foreign powers who threaten Israel's national security. In reality, this is God's vengeance, his just retribution, carried out by the saints upon those who

have attacked his kingdom. The saints will execute divine punishment on the peoples who war against them.

149:8. In battling these enemies, they will subdue their kings and imprison them with fetters, or chains. Also, their nobles will be confined with shackles of iron. This is their confident expectation as they prepare to go into battle.

149:9-10. In this divine retribution, God's people will carry out the sentence written against them. This scripted record is a reference to the written prophecies of Scripture in which God had promised to defeat the nations that had occupied the promised land (Deut. 7:1-2; Josh. 1:3-9). Scripture had already recorded their defeat. It will surely come to pass. God's Word is infallible. Thus, these worshippers were confident of victory in battle. All this (i.e., their worship and warfare) is the glory, or highest honor, of all his saints. It is a grand privilege to praise God, as well as to fight for him. The only proper response to all this is, Praise the Lord.