

Praise. Promise. Prayer.

I. Slide1 Intro: Praise. Promise. Prayer.

A. Prayer: I read, *You cannot know a friend in **hurried interviews**, much less **God**.
So you must steep yourself in deep, long thoughts of his nearness and love.*

1. Man's chief end is to **glorify God** and to **enjoy him forever**.

B. Psalm 9&10 were probably originally 1 Psalm (they are in both LXX and Vulgate).

1. Notice Ps.10 has no title, **and** they are also both an **acrostic** (22 Hebrew letters of the alphabet), **but** the 1st 1/2 being in ch.9, 2nd 1/2 in ch.10.

2. **Though much different themes:** Ps.9 a song of praise celebrating victory over foreign enemies. Ch.10 mostly a prayer pleading for the overthrow of the wicked w/in Israel.

C. If you were to give a definition of what the Psalms are you probably say, they are *hymns of praise*. **Yet** this is really the 1st Psalm so far of **praise**. Esp in the end of Psalms, last 5 begin with *Praise the Lord*.

D. Outline: **Praise** (past). **Promise** (future). **Prayer** (present).

1. It's a great pattern for our own prayer lives. **Remember** what God has done in our **past**. **Remember** His promises for our **future**. **Then** pray for **today/present**.

2. We also will **pause for prayer** at the end of the 3 sections, to actually **do** what we are **learning**.

E. Slide2 Read 1-6

II. Slide3a **PRAISE (1-6) PAST**

A. David first **looks back** to a victory he had won.

B. This is **not** a personal battle, because he was doing God's will, **as** David was dealing with *the nations* (5).

C. (1) **whole heart**: **whole** = complete, all. **Heart** = the locus/place of a persons thoughts/mind, volition/using your will, emotions, and conscience.

1. Spurgeon said, *half heart is no heart*.

2. I confess, I don't always praise the Lord with *my whole heart*. (all 4)

D. **Slide3b** (2) Don't praise God only about circumstances, praise Him for who He is.

1. There are times you can't rejoice in your **circumstances**, **or** in the way you **feel**. There are times you can't rejoice in the **plans** are made for you today. **But** you can always rejoice **in the Lord**.

2. Phil.4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice*.

3. Yes I remember 1 Thes.5:11 when Paul said, *rejoice always*.

a) But Paul was concerned that the **joy** of the Thessalonians might be **strangled** by **suffering**, **so** he urges them to **rejoice not in** what was **happening to** them, **but in their Savior** and **all that He has done for** them.

E. **Also Note** to Praise God isn't only by **singing** (see 2b) **but** it is also praise when we *tell* or *recount His wonderful deeds*.

1. **Slide3c** Adam Clarke said, *Christians, so-called, when they meet, seldom speak about God! Why is this? Because they have nothing to say*.

a) **Do you have anything to say about Him?** **No**, not from years ago. **New, fresh, today**.

F. (3-6) Here is a number of things He is praising Him for. **[prayer time]**

G. ***Take time to praise the Lord** for the **victories** He graciously gives you.

1. Start by just **praising Him** simply for **who He is**.

2. **What was a victory lately? In the area of a sin you said no to lately? Victory in a troubled relationship (marriage, co-worker, relative, friend), even a slight win?**

3. **Recount His wonderful deeds**.

H. **Slide4** Read 7-12

III. Slide5a **PROMISE** (7-12) *FUTURE*

A. David now **looks ahead** to the **future**.

B. (10a) **those who know Your Name** - If you know His **name**, you know His **nature**.

1. His **names** and **titles** reveal His **nature**. They tell us **who He is** and **what He can do**. *Each name He bears is a blessing He bestows on us.*

2. Slide5b The better you **know** God, the more you'll **trust** Him.

The more you **trust** Him, the better you'll **get to know** Him.

C. Slide5c (10b) **for you all Lord have not forsaken those who seek you** - Has it occurred to you **that the only person God ever really forsook was His own Son?**

1. The Father loves His Son and says to Him basically, *you have died for these people, so I will never forsake these people.*

2. It's God's promise to us in the very last statement of Matthews gospel, *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

D. So far if you knew nothing about God except this chapter, here are some of the things that we would know about him. He should be thanked. He does wonderful deeds. He should be exalted. He's the Most High in that that no one else is higher. His presence is so powerful that his enemies stumble and perish before Him. He sits on a throne. On it He gives righteous judgment. He has power over all nations. He can blot out names forever. He is a stronghold/protector. He is to be trusted. He never forsake's His own. He is worthy to be praised. He is to be boasted about. He does not forget the cry of the afflicted. [prayer time]

E. *The Father forsook His Son on the cross, but he will *not forsake you*.

1. What have you done or even thought of lately, where you felt He should have forsaken you? Then remind yourself He didn't (and won't).

2. Connect 2 concepts (10) *the Lord is a stronghold/fortress/safe-room, with you oh Lord have not forsaken those who seek you.*

F. Slide6 Read 13-20

IV. Slide7a **PRAYER (13-20) PRESENT** Read

- A. Now after considering the **past & future**, David now prays for his **present** need.
- B. **Reminder:** *God makes everything beautiful in His time!*
- C. **Slide7b** We could say these verses tell us, *Let God be the judge, the jury and the prosecuting attorney. He knows more about this than you do.* Warren Wiersbe
- D. **In His time ... God will** catch those who are doing wrong. **The nations will** fall into the pit they have made. **Sinners** who have laid nets in the pathway **will** get caught in those nets.
1. Isn't it good to know that you **don't** have to devote your **time, energy, concern, anxiety, and stress** to wonder what's going to happen to all the **evil** in the world, **and** all the **injustices** that have come your way?
 2. **Slide7c** **God is going to take care of it.** Yes we as Christians need to do **our part** to make this a better world. **To be both salt and light to this world.** **But** our calling is to do something **even more wonderful:** to tell unbelievers that they don't have to go to hell. **And** to share with them the highlights of a relationship with Christ. **Our job is to tell or recount all of his wonderful deeds.**
- E. **His need** was for mercy. **His motive** that he might *praise the Lord and tell others of His salvation.* **His why?** cuz there is a real place called **hell** (17).
1. And **salvation** is the only escape from that terrible place.
 2. **And** so Paul said, *Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.* (2 Cor.5:11)
 3. **Slide7d** C.S.Lewis said, *"The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."*
- F. Some think *God is sick or anemic* and can't do much to help us in our world. **Others** believe *God is dead.* **While** many humanist sing, *glory to man in the highest.*
1. Lie from the garden, **you can be like God.**

2. **Today** it looks like: *man is winning, truth has lost its footing, and wrong sits on the throne in culture today.*

- a) *Arise oh Lord! Let not man prevail* (these mere weak mortals) (19). Let them know *they are just men* (merely human) (20).
- b) Interesting, when **men** try to be **God**, they don't become **God**, they become **animals**. They sink lower than **men** and start acting like **animals**. That's why our world is in such a mess today. *Warren Weirsbe* [Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, seized power in Myanmar 1 yr ago, & appointed himself indefinitely as the commander-in-chief and therefore the *de facto* leader of Myanmar]

3. Let's admit together, *we are frail people. We need God.* [prayer time]

G. *During this *prayer time* let me 1st read Eccl.3:11-14, *He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil - this is God's gift to man. 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.*

1. **Confess to God** *you are frail and you need Him!* [Hunter]

H. **Prayer:** God we return **Your scepter** into your hand. You do a much better job at **running this world** and especially **running our lives**.

I. Keywords: God, forgiveness, hell, injustice, joy, judgement, justice, prayer, promises, salvation, sin.