

God's Designs for Disruptions – Part 1

Psalm 9

Scripture Reading from Psalm 9

1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

3 When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence.

4 For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.

5 You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished.

7 But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.

8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

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

10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

13 Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death,

14 That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.

15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.

16 The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

17 (The Msg) The wicked bought a one-way ticket to hell.

18 But the needy will not be ignored forever; the hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.

19 Arise, O LORD! Do not let mere mortals defy you! Judge the nations!

20 Make them tremble in fear, O LORD. Let the nations know they are merely human.

Big Idea – Things don't just “happen” - God always has a plan and a purpose.

1. Purifying and cleansing.

Ps 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Ps 51:7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.

9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

How do I know what sins I need cleansed from? Pray & ask Him to show you.

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxieties.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Try these out for size:

Unforgiveness

Bitter spirit

Animosity towards a Christian friend, or family member

Animosity towards other races

Unbelief

2. Closer companionship and fellowship.

Psalm 57:1 “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by.”

Psalm 55:17 “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”

Psalm 19:7-11 “The teachings of the LORD are perfect; they give new strength. The rules of the LORD can be trusted; they make plain people wise.

8 The orders of the LORD are right; they make people happy. The commands of the LORD are pure; they light up the way.

9 Respect for the LORD is good; it will last forever. The judgments of the LORD are true; they are completely right.

10 They are worth more than gold, even the purest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even the finest honey.

11 By them your servant is warned. Keeping them brings great reward.

A Daily Quiet Time with God is Priceless

His Word speaks peace to your heart. For example:

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

Psalm 86:7 I call to you in times of trouble, because you will answer me.

Psalm 91:15 They will call to me, and I will answer them. I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

3. Transformation to make us like Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

God wants us daily to be more and more like Jesus Christ.

Sadly, many “former” believers in Jesus Christ are denying their Lord, are giving up their faith in God, in His Word, and in His truths. Why? Jesus in parable of sower (Matthew 13) said it could be troubles or persecution of the cares of this world, or even the deceitfulness of riches that chokes the seed of God’s Word. Former missionaries, pastors, celebrity worship leaders, CCM artists, and others are dropping like dead flies!

So what’s the antidote?

Make sure your faith is your own,

Make sure it’s real.

Make sure it’s personal.

Answer this question: Is my faith personal?

4. Comfort so I can help others.

2 Corinthians 1:4 “He comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us.”

Psalms 143:11 LORD, let me live so people will praise you. In your goodness save me from my troubles.

Is there someone you know who needs your encouragement? Take these Words to them:

Romans 8:35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.

39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Deepen our convictions and strengthen our faith in Him.

2 Corinthians 12:9 Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

10 That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God makes His strength perfect for us in our weakness!

1 Thessalonians 3:7 So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith.

6. Promote obedience through change.

Acts 8:1; 9:1-9, 15

God struck down Saul of Tarsus, a zealous, religious killer of his day.

The ISIS jihadi, the Islamic terrorist, the Jewish zealot killing followers of the Way, and turned him into the Apostle Paul, a missionary, preacher, author of many books of the Bible, the Jesus book!

Psalms 71:20 You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, Shall revive me again, And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Psalm 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Psalm 25:17 The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

Psalm 42:7 Troubles have come again and again, sounding like waterfalls. Your waves are crashing all around me.

Psalm 88:3 My life is full of troubles, and I am nearly dead.

Psalm 90:15 We have seen years of trouble. Now give us as much joy as you gave us sorrow.

Psalm 142:2 I pour out my problems to him; I tell him my troubles.

Psalm 145:14 The LORD helps those who have been defeated and takes care of those who are in trouble.

Psalm 146:8 The LORD gives sight to the blind. The LORD lifts up people who are in trouble. The LORD loves those who do right.

Isaiah 48:10 I have made you pure, but not by fire, as silver is made pure. I have purified you by giving you troubles.

Romans 12:12 Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times.

2Timothy 3:1 Remember this! In the last days there will be many troubles,

2Timothy 4:5 But you should control yourself at all times, accept troubles, do the work of telling the Good News, and complete all the duties of a servant of God.

James 1:2, 3 My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.

Jeremiah 16:19 LORD, you are my strength and my protection, my safe place in times of trouble. The nations will come to you from all over the world and say, "Our ancestors had only false gods, useless idols that didn't help them.