

# Psalms – The Faithful and Forceful Reign of God

## Intro

- As it stands, the Royal Marriages Act 1772 states that no descendant of George II can marry without the reigning Monarch's consent.
- For those in line to the throne and born after 28th October 2011, the British throne's male preference for monarchs will change to 'absolute primogeniture', which means that the eldest child succeeds, regardless of gender.
- There is no way that one can 'renounce' their right in the line of succession. Theoretically, the only way this could be done prior to the Succession to the Crown Act being introduced is to convert to Catholicism or marry a Catholic. Once reigning, a Monarch can abdicate from the throne 'renouncing' the right to be monarch.
- In 2013, there were over 5,750 people from all over the world in the line of succession to the British throne.
- The throne we talk about today, however, is much different. This throne is one which there is nobody in line to secede the current monarch. There is only one who sits on this throne, and his reign is eternal.

### **Psalm 9 ESV**

*To the choirmaster: according to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David.*

*[1] I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.*

*[2] I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

*[3] When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before your presence.*

*[4] For you have maintained my just cause;  
you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.*

*[5] You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish;  
you have blotted out their name forever and ever.*

*[6] The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins;  
their cities you rooted out;  
the very memory of them has perished.*

*[7] But the LORD sits enthroned forever;  
he has established his throne for justice,*

*[8] and he judges the world with righteousness;  
he judges the peoples with uprightness.*

*[9] The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

*[10] And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

*[11] Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion!  
Tell among the peoples his deeds!*

*[12] For he who avenges blood is mindful of them;  
he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.*

*[13] Be gracious to me, O LORD!  
See my affliction from those who hate me,  
O you who lift me up from the gates of death,*

*[14] that I may recount all your praises,  
that in the gates of the daughter of Zion  
I may rejoice in your salvation.*

*[15] The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;  
in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught.*

*[16] The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment;  
the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgsion. Selah*

*[17] The wicked shall return to Sheol,  
all the nations that forget God.*

*[18] For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.*

*[19] Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you!*

*[20] Put them in fear, O LORD!  
Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah*

Main Idea: God faithfully and forcefully reigns, therefore we should ask for grace to live in the midst of evil.

## Context: God Reigns Faithfully and Forcefully

Praise of people – v1-2

God on the throne – v3-4

Evil is judged – v5-6

God on the throne – v7-10

Praise of people – v11-12

Praise of people v1+2, v11+12

[1] I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

[2] I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

David's whole-hearted, thankful praise includes: remembering God's deeds, being glad in God, rejoicing exceedingly in God, singing praises to God *\*NOT 1/2 hearted!*

[11] Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion!  
Tell among the peoples his deeds!

[12] For he who avenges blood is mindful of them;  
he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

David now exhorts others to sing praises and not just remember God's deeds but tell others about them

David gives an examples of this: mindful, does not forget the afflicted

*DOR DO WE RESERVE PRAISE FOR SUNDAY MORNING?*

Are we people of praise? All we do should be enveloped in praise. It should permeate every aspect of our dealings with God and with men! Perhaps a fresh vision of an old truth is needed: God reigns forcefully and faithfully!

God on the throne v3+4, v7-10

*David, Israel's monarch, also remembers being saved + those who still reign*  
Having exhorted others to tell of God's deeds, David proceeds to follow his own advice:

[3] When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before your presence.

[4] For you have maintained my just cause;  
you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.

God has decisively dealt with his enemies

God has reigned powerfully from his throne

*411 years ago there was a threat to the British Throne. Around midnight on November 4, a justice of the peace found Guy Fawkes lurking in a cellar under the parliament buildings. The premises were searched + 20 barrels of gunpowder were found*

*English Folk Verse*

*Remember, remember the fifth of November!  
The Gunpowder treason and plot;  
I know of no reason, the Gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot*

*The English remember the salvation of their monarch King James I. He remained on the throne.*

*to kill the king + many others*  
• the plot was thwarted  
• Guy Fawkes jumped on his ascent up the hanging platform and ended his life  
• this event is recalled thru an English Folk verse

David returns to the throne theme a few verses later:

*[7] But the LORD sits enthroned forever;  
he has established his throne for justice,  
[8] and he judges the world with righteousness;  
he judges the peoples with uprightness.*

*[9] The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

*[10] And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

Throne = sovereign reign

His reign is just therefore his judgments are righteous and upright

A righteously, uprightly judging God is a stronghold in times of trouble, a refuge of great faithfulness and trustworthiness for those who know Him

God is trustworthy! God is faithful! God reigns forcefully! Are you trusting him this week?

What are you trusting? Money? Fate? Chance? Your intelligence? Your aptitude? Why? Can you defend the decision to trust those things?

*Government? Imagine what the USA is thinking of in terms of putting trust in a government!*  
*We can trust in the righteous reign of God because He is just and He always reigns!  
Let's remember this and tell others!*

Evil is judged

Looking at the chiasm, the psalmist seems to be suggesting that the exhortation to praise God is built upon the character of God (the supreme and magnificent ruler). And, the character of God is derived by <sup>the</sup> psalmist from the works of God; particularly, the judgment of evil.

*[5] You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish;  
you have blotted out their name forever and ever.*

*[6] The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins;  
their cities you rooted out;  
the very memory of them has perished.*

The forcefulness of God's reign is seen in his actions against evil: nations are rebuked, the wicked perish, they have been blotted out

Rebuked = judgment that stops the wicked in their tracks  
Perish = they have been destroyed  
Blotted Out = completely removed

God's actions are so vigorous and potent that even the memory of the enemies has perished – ~~dessert~~ at our house  
Mim's homemade bread

This chiasm covering the first 12 verse of this psalm suggests that the faithful and forceful reign of God is something we must fight for. Faith in God's reign is not something we arrive at passively. David has demonstrated how it happens; considering God's work (judging evil), considering God's reign (violent and virtuous), and responding in grateful, remembering, confessing, praise. Do you think faith in God happens magically? By osmosis?

## Confession: Grace Is Needed

A Plea for Grace – v13-14

*[13] Be gracious to me, O LORD!*

*See my affliction from those who hate me,*

The fight to trust God's reign is also clearly seeking His grace = Be gracious to me! See my affliction = be compassionate and merciful. David is certain how God will respond to his affliction. This is a cry of faith, not of desperation! ⇒ Do you know God well enough to know how he will respond to your situation?

*O you who lift me up from the gates of death,  
[14] that I may recount all your praises,  
that in the gates of the daughter of Zion  
I may rejoice in your salvation.*

You are alive to glorify God, to rejoice in his salvation, to recount all his praises – even death cannot thwart God's reign...you will not leave this world until you have sang the praises of God and rejoiced in Him to the full measure of what he has ordained for you

Ask for grace! – my congregational prayers

The Certainties of Sin – v15-20

### 1) Sin has negative consequences, most of which will be directed back at the sinner

*[15] The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;  
in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught.*

*[16] The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment;  
the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgsion. Selah*

### 2) Sin's negative consequences will eventually be eternal

*[17] The wicked shall return to Sheol,  
all the nations that forget God.*

*[18] For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.*

In his commentary on Psalms called *The Treasury of David*, Spurgeon quotes theologian Robert South: "The wages that sin bargains with the sinner are life, pleasure, and profit; but the wages it pays him with are death, torment, and destruction. He that would understand the falsehood and deceit of sin, must compare its promises and its payment together." ⇒ *let's not be naïve about sin!*

### 3) God ensures 1 + 2

*[19] Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you!*

*[20] Put them in fear, O LORD!  
Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah*

⇒ *let's not be naïve about  
God's reaction to sin!*

In light of it being communion Sunday, it is fitting that the psalm ends its consideration of the faithful and forceful reign of God by raising the issues of our need for grace and the results of sin. Nowhere is the sovereign reign of God, his outpouring of grace as a result of sin seen more clearly, more gloriously, more life-changingly than in the person and work of Christ that we celebrate and proclaim this morning.