

PSALMS

Chapter 92

¹ It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, ² to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, ³ to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. ⁴ For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. ⁵ How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts! ⁶ The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, ⁷ that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed. ⁸ But you, O LORD, are exalted forever. ⁹ For surely your enemies, O LORD, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered. ¹⁰ You have exalted my horn ^a like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured upon me. ¹¹ My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes. ¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; ¹³ planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, ¹⁵ proclaiming, “The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

Ps 92 A joyful celebration of the righteous rule of God. Its testimony to the prosperity of the righteous, “planted in the house of the LORD” (v. 13), links it thematically with Ps 91, while its joy over God’s righteous reign relates it to the cluster of psalms that follow (Ps 93–100; see especially Ps 94). In fact, celebration of God’s love and faithfulness as characteristic of his reign (see v. 2; 100:5) may have served for the editors of the Psalter as a frame enclosing the collection. The psalmist here may have been the king (see vv. 10–11). Following the introduction on praise (vv. 1–3), vv. 4–5 offer the motivation for the praise (“me,” “I”), which is picked up again in vv. 10–11 (“my,” “me,” “My,” “my,” “my,” “my”). Verses 6–9 expound the folly and destiny of evildoers, while vv. 12–15 expound the prosperity of the righteous. Notice also the link between v. 7 and v. 13. The NIV text offers a different analysis of the psalm’s structure. If the analysis presented here is followed, v. 8 should be read as concluding the thought of v. 7. (CSB)

Only psalm tied specifically to the Sabbath. While the Sabbath could be described by what could not be done on that day, this psalm shows what should be done: praise and celebration of God’s great works. (TLSB)

Format: Vv 1–4, it is good to praise God; vv 5–9, fate of God’s foolish enemies; vv 10–11, psalmist enjoys victory; vv 12–15, flourishing of God’s faithful people. (TLSB)

92 title A song. See note on Ps 30 title. *For the Sabbath day*. In the postexilic liturgy of the temple, this psalm came to be sung at the time of the morning sacrifice on the Sabbath. (The rest of the weekly schedule was: first day, Ps 24;

second day, Ps 48; third day, Ps 82; fourth day, Ps 94; fifth day, Ps 81; sixth day, Ps 93.) (CSB)

92:1–3 Hymnic introduction. (CSB)

Praise is continuously sung and accompanied by a variety of musical instruments. (TLSB)

92:1 *LORD... Most High*. That is, LORD Most High (see 7:17; see also note on 3:7). (CSB)

name. See note on 5:11. (CSB)

Most High. See note on Ge 14:19. (CSB)

92:2 *love ... faithfulness*. That is, love-and-faithfulness (see note on 36:5; see also note on 3:7). (CSB)

love. See note on 6:4. (CSB)

morning ... night. Continuously. (CSB)

92:3 *lyre ... harp*. See note on 57:8 Instruments (here personified) to accompany the praise of the Lord at his temple in celebration of deliverance.). (CSB)

harp. See note on Ge 31:27 Much smaller, and with fewer strings (usually 6 to 12), than their modern counterparts.). (CSB)

92:4–5 Joy over God's saving acts (see vv. 10–11). (CSB)

These deeds are God's creation, redemption and the wonderful thoughts revealed in His word. (PBC)

92:4 WORKS OF YOUR HANDS – God as Creator is also reason for praise. (TLSB)

92:5 *profound*. Lit. "deep." *your thoughts*. As shown by your deeds. (CSB)

Profound, mysterious, at times beyond human understanding. Augustine: "Verily, my brethren, there is no sea so deep as these thoughts of God, who makes the wicked flourish, and the good suffer: nothing so profound, nothing so deep: therein every unbelieving soul is wrecked, in that depth, in that profundity. Do you wish to cross this depth? Remove not from the wood of Christ's cross: you shall not sink: hold yourself fast to Christ" (*NPNF* 1 8:454). (TLSB)

92:6–9 The fatal folly of evildoers (contrast vv. 12–15). (CSB)

views a theme which we have seen frequently in Psalms. Though the wicked may enjoy brief prosperity, they will fall under the eternal judgment of God. (PBC)

92:6 *senseless ... fools*. See NIV text note on 14:1; see also 49:10; 94:8–11. They do not know that the Lord rules righteously. They see the wicked flourishing, but do not see the Lord or foresee the end he has appointed for them. The author thus characterizes his “wicked foes” (v. 11), whom the Lord has routed. (CSB)

Morally corrupt. The fool lacks discernment of God’s power and majesty, rejecting His wisdom and rule over life (TLSB)

92:7 A condensed statement of what is expounded more fully in Ps 73 (see note on 90:4–5). (CSB)

Although the wicked may do well in this life, their end is determined by God’s justice. (TLSB)

92:8 *exalted forever*. God’s eternal exaltation assures the destruction of his enemies. (CSB)

92:9 *enemies*. Here the evildoers, referred to also in v. 7. (CSB)

Those who stand as foolish evildoers before God bring His judgment; they are totally destroyed as they perish in eternal death. (TLSB)

92:10–11 Joy over God’s favors (see vv. 4–5): God has made him triumphant (see 89:24) and anointed him with “the oil of joy” (45:7; see also 23:5) by giving him victory over all his enemies. (CSB)

Fine oil also indicates the preparation to serve God. (PBC)

92:10 EXALT MY HORN...WILD OX – To be made strong and powerful. (TLSB)

FINE OIL POURED UPON ME – Anointing could express great joy, such as a victory over enemies, or it could signify consecration to serve the Lord in a special way. (TLSB)

92:12–15 The secure prosperity of the righteous (contrast vv. 6–9). (CSB)

When God’s enemies are uprooted, his people will endure like a tree planted in his presence. (PBC)

92:12 PALM TREE – Grows tall and graceful at an oasis in the desert; its fruit is valuable for food, and its deep roots seek out water. (TLSB)

CEDAR – Grows tall; prime source of fine wood. Palms and cedars convey a picture of strength, majesty, and dignity. (TLSB)

92:13 *planted in the house of the LORD.* Though the wicked may “spring up like grass,” their end is sure (see v. 7). But the righteous are planted in a secure place (see Ps 91) and so retain the vigor of youth into old age, rejoicing in God’s just discrimination (see v. 15). (CSB)

Gardens may have been planted in the inner and outer courts of the temple. (TLSB)

FLOURISH – While the wicked are like the withering grass (v 7), the righteous flourish in God’s presence. (TLSB)

courts. Of the temple (see 84:2, 10; 2Ki 21:5; 23:11–12). (CSB)

92:14 Youthful vigor even in old age. Maturity and wisdom that come with age are retained, then combined with the fresh vitality of youth. (TLSB)

92:15 UPRIGHT...NO WICKEDNESS – The Lord is just. No wrong is found in Him. So the wicked will be judged and punished, while the righteous will flourish forever with God. (TLSB)

Ps 92 In worship, you receive the strength of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. No doubt, there are days you wonder if going to worship is worth the effort. But focus on what God has done for you in Jesus, who is faithful to His promises. One day justice will be served on the wicked, but we who believe will flourish in the strength of Christ’s resurrection. • Lord, bring forth praises out of our hearts, for the works of Your hands make us glad indeed. Amen. (TLSB)