

# Psalms 80:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.

## Analysis

**Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.** This verse details God's horticultural care, emphasizing comprehensive preparation for Israel's flourishing. "Thou preparedst room" (pinnita lefaneha, פָּנִיתָ לְפָנֶיהָ) uses panah (פָּנָה), meaning to clear, make clear, turn away—God cleared space by removing Canaanite nations. Like gardener removing rocks, weeds, and competing plants before transplanting choice vine, God prepared land specifically for Israel's planting.

"Didst cause it to take deep root" (vatashresh shorasheyha, וַתִּשְׂרֹשׁ שֹׁרָשֶׁיהָ) emphasizes God's active role in Israel's establishment. Shoresh (שֹׁרֶשׁ) means root—foundation, source of nourishment, anchor against storms. The causative verb form indicates God made Israel take root; it wasn't Israel's achievement but God's gift. Deep roots enable withstanding drought, storms, and enemies—suggesting Israel's initial security stemmed from divine establishment, not human effort or military might.

"It filled the land" (vatimale-aretz, וַתִּמְלֵא אֶרֶץ) describes initial prosperity fulfilling Genesis 15:18-21's promised extent—from Egypt's river to Euphrates. At Solomon's height, Israel's influence extended throughout the region (1 Kings 4:21, 24). The phrase recalls Genesis 1:28's creation mandate: "fill the earth." Israel was fulfilling divine purpose, spreading throughout promised territory like well-cultivated vine extending through vineyard. This establishes stark contrast with current devastation lamented in following verses.

## Historical Context

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Israel's territorial expansion reached its zenith under David and Solomon (circa 1010-930 BC), when the kingdom extended from the Euphrates to Egypt's border (1 Kings 4:21). Archaeological evidence confirms this period's prosperity—monumental building projects, international trade, cultural development. The united monarchy represented the vine's full flowering. Subsequent division (Northern and Southern kingdoms in 930 BC) and later Assyrian conquest of the north (722 BC) devastated this territorial extent, making the psalm's lament—"Why have you broken down her hedges?"—painfully relevant.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that God 'caused' Israel to take deep root affect understanding of spiritual growth and stability in believers' lives?
2. What is the relationship between divine initiative (God's planting and rooting) and human responsibility in covenant faithfulness?
3. How should Christians respond when the 'roots' and 'filling' God granted seem to be failing or withdrawn due to covenant unfaithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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<p>פָּנֵי יְהוָה</p> <p><b>Thou preparedst</b></p> <p>H6437</p>	<p>לִפְנֵי יְהוָה</p> <p><b>room before</b></p> <p>H6440</p>	<p>וַיִּשְׁרֹשֶׁשׁ</p> <p><b>root</b></p> <p>H8327</p>	<p>שָׁרְשָׁהּ יְהוָה</p> <p><b>it and didst cause it to take deep</b></p> <p>H8328</p>
<p>וַיִּמְלֵא</p> <p><b>and it filled</b></p> <p>H4390</p>	<p>אֶרֶץ:</p> <p><b>the land</b></p> <p>H776</p>		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 24:12** (Parallel theme): And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

**Isaiah 27:6** (Parallel theme): He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

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