

Psalm 20

- Another Psalm of David, which appears to be a petition on behalf of a friend, he's praying for someone else who needs God's help, but in actuality he is praying for himself and for his army.

V: 1 This was a prayer before the day of trouble / battle, praying for his army before they go out to battle, which would make Psalm 21 the praise for the victory after the battle.

- The day of "trouble" also translated as distress, anguish, extreme discomfort, or affliction.
- A day of battle would be such an occasion.

Good for them, and for us that:

Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

- Jewish law concerning warfare required that the officers and men first dedicated themselves to the Lord before going out to battle.

Deuteronomy 20:1-4 "¹When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ²And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, ³and shall say unto them, hear, O Israel, as ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; ⁴For the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you."

- In a way this is also a selfless prayer, David is interceding - we could very much pray this prayer for each other - you all can very much pray this prayer for me.
- The Lord hear thee... defend thee, help thee, strengthen thee, remember thee and accept your burnt offerings / sacrifices, our prayers, our praise, our worship.

"Ib ... the name of the God of Jacob defend thee."

- The "God of Jacob" is used somewhat synonymously with the "Lord." This could just as easily read: "... the name of the Lord defend thee..."
- The name "Israel" means governed by God, ruled by God. Jacob mean's "heal catcher" or sneaky, equivalent to "dishonest."

- Israel is often a reference to when either Jacob / Israel the man or Israel the nation is walking in the Spirit, in obedience to the Word of God. Whereas “Jacob” is a reference to either the man or the nation walking in the flesh, or in disobedience.
- “May the Lord hear you, even if your not necessarily where you’re supposed to be, or doing exactly what you should be doing, may the Lord hear you.” This points again to His grace.

V: 2 David had brought the Ark of the covenant to Mt. Zion, to Jerusalem which meant that God was enthroned among His people and that He would help them.

Psalm 80:1 “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.”

- David’s prayer is that God would send help from the sanctuary in Zion, where the presence of God dwells.
- Another aspect of all of this is that because God’s presence was amongst His people in Zion, God’s glory and reputation would be at stake in any battle involving His people.

V: 3 David had often brought sacrifices to God’s altar before the Tabernacle, dedicating himself / burnt offerings and thank offerings, and no doubt would have done so again before going to lead the army of Israel into battle.

- Lord don’t forget those offerings given as memorials to your great name.
- Selah: pause and think about that.

V: 4 May He grant you according to your own heart, assuming perhaps his heart was towards the Lord.

- Praying that God would extend His favor towards his people.

V: 5 As part of the prayer David declares that we will thank you for the victory, for thy salvation - this is a statement of faith; this is a confident affirmation of victory before the battle even got started.

- Raising the banners and waving them was a sign of victory.
- This is an expression of His faith and trust in God.
- David was thanking and praising God ahead of time, just like we’re called to do.

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

V: 6 When the king is confident, the troops are confident, often times everything rises or falls with leadership.

- As the king speaks and assures the people that he is confident of success because the Lord has chosen him, anointed him to that task.
- His prayer in verse one was “Lord hear thee in the day of trouble...”
- David’s response is “He will hear.” Not only will God send help from Zion, but also from the throne of heaven, with the saving strength of his mighty right hand.

V: 7-8 Another way to read this might be: “*Some may trust in Republicans, and some in Democrats, but we will remember the name of the Lord!*”

- They may have had some intel reports that the enemy would come to them with horses and chariots. Horses and chariots were the tanks of the day, formidable weapons.

Deuteronomy 20:1 & 4 “¹When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee,... ⁴For the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”

Psalms 33:16-17 “¹⁶There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. ¹⁷An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.”

- Some trust in worldly wisdom, some trust in earthly power - “but” / contrast - not us, we will remember the name of the Lord our God, my God, we claim Him.

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

- We remember the name of the Lord - Yahweh, I AM, that I AM - “The becoming One”, whatever we need Him to be, He will be that for us.
- **Jehovah-Nissi:** (Yah’weh Nees-oni) “The Lord my Banner.” God gives us victory over the flesh, the world, and the enemy of our souls. Our battles are His battles, and He gives us the victory for which we raise the banner high!

- The first time this name was used was in **Exodus 17:15**, it was the name of the altar that Moses built after defeating the Amalekites at Rephidim. It's the same name / title used in **Deuteronomy 20** when the Israelites dedicated themselves to the Lord before going out to battle.
- We'll remember the name of the Lord, and take encouragement in that.

Zechariah 4:6 "... not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

- Those who trust in horses and chariots will be disappointed, they will be brought down and humbled.
- "*but*" / contrast - at the same time we will rise up and stand upright.

V: 9 Save Lord, we look to you, let the king, meaning the King of kings, hear us when we call.

Psalms 95:3 "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Psalms 34:17 "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

Psalms 21

- This Psalm is a response, a hymn of praise to God for the victories prayed for in Psalm 20, acknowledging what God has done because God has given David victory!

Psalms 20:7-8 "7Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. 8They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright."

- That is what has happened, those who've trusted in the Lord are risen, and stand upright.
- William McDonald describes the first 7 verses as "*the sweet taste of victory.*"

V: 1 No doubt all of us at times have cried out to God in our troubles, it's a natural response for us as believers, but sadly we don't always remember to come back to offer thanks and praise for what He has done.

[Luke records:](#)

Luke 17:12-17 “¹²And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: ¹³And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. ¹⁴And when He saw them, He said unto them, go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶and fell down on his face at his feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? but were are the nine?”

- A lot of people pray in those times of trouble, but fewer remember to give God thanks for those answered prayers. Here though we see David thanking and praising God for the answered prayers.

V: 2 David acknowledges the fact that God has answered his / their prayers, given him his desire.

David later writes about this:

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- As we delight ourselves in the Lord, He becomes the desire of our heart, His desires become our desires which He then delights to do.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

“^{2b}... *the request of his lips.*” We still have a role to play, we need to ask, to pray, to humble ourselves before Him constantly.

James 4:2 “... ye have not because ye ask not.”

V: 3 David continues to give God praise and glory. You “prevented” or met him, welcomed him with blessings of goodness.

- Crown of gold: Two applications, first historically this is thought to be connected to David’s victory over the Moabites at Rabbah.

2 Samuel 12:30 “And he took their king’s crown from off his head, the weight thereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David’s head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.”

- **Side note:** if you examine **2 Samuel 12** you’ll see that David didn’t fight or win the battle, Joab did - so he got a golden crown he didn’t earn for himself - just like us, we get a crown we don’t deserve and didn’t work for either.

- 2nd application: which is prophetically for you and I.

1 Corinthians 9:25 “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

2 Timothy 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.” (Sounds pretty handy...)

1 Peter 5:4 “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Revelation 4:10 Like the 24 elders, we'll be casting our crowns at his feet...

- Side note to the side note: Chronology 2 Samuel 12.

V: 4 This is a reference to David's progeny. God has promised that one of His descendants would always sit upon the throne, which he correctly understood to mean that the Messiah would be one of his descendants.

- David asked for life and God gave him way more than he asked for, and He's given us the same thing:

John 11:25-26 “²⁵... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. ²⁶And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die...”

- Ample cause for rejoicing!

V: 5-7 David continues to praise God, seemingly coming to a deeper understanding of what God has already done for him.

- David sees the honor and majesty that has been given him, the blessings of God - and because of these things he will not be moved. He will not be moved away from his faith in God.

Psalms 16:8 “I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.”

- Not being moved, being rooted and grounded in God's Word.

Ephesians 3:17-19 “¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all saints what is

the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

V: 8-9 Describing a coming day of judgment before the Lord.

- The enemies of the Lord will be discovered, those that hate the Lord will be subject to the wrath of God, and the fire shall devour them.

Hebrews 10:26-27 “²⁶For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

Malachi 4:1 “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (Yikes!)

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

V: 10 Their progeny will be destroyed, no descendant to carry on their name or legacy.

- They will not continue on into the kingdom age.

V: 11-12 They intended evil against you: this takes us back to Psalm 2

Psalm 2:1-3 “¹Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

- They imagined all kinds of evil against God, but what could they or any of us really do against Him? The futility of fighting God. In the end they will be destroyed and end up in hell.

V: 13 Oh Lord be exalted, be glorified in your strength - we will sing your praises.

- This is a psalm that looks forward to the day of the Lord when the promised King will sit upon the throne bringing the enemies of the Lord into judgment.
- David fought many battles and won many victories, not to exalt himself, but to magnify and to glorify the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:30 “... For them that honour Me I will honour...”

- Rightly so this Psalm opens and closes with praises to God.

- We see the result of David's relationship with God, we see the obvious contrast between those who trust the Lord and receive His grace - and those who reject all of that and bring upon themselves the "fiery oven" - the "wrath of God."

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