

There are many passages in Scripture that tell us to rejoice. Joy is to be a part of our lives. Perhaps there is no greater joy on earth than when we are in the aftermath of a victory, realizing that the all-powerful God has personally intervened on our behalf and has given us the victory.

When we have specifically been faced with a trial or trouble, or when we have faced a ferocious enemy and God has powerfully moved in accordance with our prayers and given us victory, there is no greater sense of joy in this entire world.

That is what Psalm 21 is all about. Psalm 21 is closely connected to Psalm 20. In Psalm 20, the people prayed for success and victory for their king and in Psalm 21, the king celebrates the victory for which the people prayed.

The lesson to see is this:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE TRUST GOD AND PRAY AND THEN SEE HIM ANSWER THEIR PRAYERS, THERE WILL BE GREAT CAUSE FOR REJOICING AND WORSHIP.

When we believe God and in times of trouble cry out to Him and wait on Him to answer, we will eventually see God do great and mighty things. When this happens, we will experience real joy and we can enter into a wonderful experience of worship.

This text breaks down nicely into three main parts:

PART #1 – David cites reasons to rejoice. **21:1-6**

There are seven reasons David cites to rejoice:

Reason #1 - Joy comes from experiencing strength and deliverance from God. **21:1**

There are several things to think about in this verse. **Notice carefully whose salvation it is—not mine, but “Thine.”** I am fully convinced that until we get to the place where we realize any strength for victory, whether over an enemy or sin, or any strength for deliverance comes from God, we will lack joy. Some of the most miserable people you will ever meet are believers who believe their deliverance is due to them.

Reason #2 - Joy comes from experiencing a heart's desire and answered prayer. **21:2**

Some of the most wonderful and joyful experiences of this life will be found when God gives us what we desire in accordance with that for which we have prayed. David had offered many prayers to the Lord and the Lord had answered him and David rejoiced. The specific immediate desire that David had was for victory and specifically the destruction of his enemies. The word “selah” indicates God wants us to stop and think about this.

Reason #3 - Joy comes from receiving good things from God. **21:3a**

God does give us and bless us with good things to enjoy in life and when God is seen to be the giver of these things, there is great joy in them. The greatest level of joy is realized when we thank God for all the good things He gives us. The word “meet” is one that does refer to the presence of God. God does meet and display His presence with certain people.

Reason #4 - Joy comes from receiving honor from God. **21:3b**

God does exalt and God does promote. In II Samuel 12:30, God literally put a crown on David. David had gone from being a shepherd boy to being a King of Israel. It was a tremendous promotion and God had accomplished it and David rejoiced.

Reason #5 - Joy comes from receiving answers to prayer. **21:4a**

One of the great benefits of praying is that God answers prayer and there is great joy when He does. David had asked things from God, specific things and God had given him those things and he was glad, his heart rejoiced.

Reason #6 - Joy comes from living a long life here and in eternity. **21:4b**

When God has blessed us with a fullness of life here on earth and then we realize we will live with Him forever, there is real cause for joy and gladness.

Reason #7 - Joy comes from realizing the position God gives us. **21:5-6**

God gives us glory through His salvation. Any majesty or splendor we have is due to the salvation He gives. These verses specifically speak of Jesus Christ—the most blessed one forever who accomplished so great a salvation on our behalf. The splendor and majesty that belongs to Christ, which saved us, is cause for real joy.

PART #2 – David cites reasons to trust. **21:7-12**

David placed his trust in the Lord and that trust would not be shaken. God would do certain things for David, which would intensify his faith. David trusted in certain realities:

Trust Reality #1 - God would discover all hateful enemies. **21:8**

David lived with the belief that God knew who all of the enemies were and he also lived with a belief that God would eventually track each one down. Now of course God’s enemies were David’s enemies.

Now notice the description of the mindset of the enemy. An enemy of God is not just confused about God, he hates God. David faced these kinds of people in his own life.

There were people who hated David because he was right with God and they were his enemies. David's comfort came in that he knew God knew who they were.

Trust Reality #2 - God would destroy David's enemies in His anger and wrath. **21:9**

David did not believe in a "love God" that would never dare do anything against those who were enemies of Him and His Word. David believed those people are heading to fire. They will burn in a fiery oven. They will experience the fiery anger and wrath of God. Jesus described this place as being a "furnace of fire" where He would cast unbelievers, where there would be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 13:42).

There is undoubtedly a love and grace side to God, but there is also an anger and wrath side to God. Those who are enemies of God and His Word will experience that wrath one day.

Trust Reality #3 - God would destroy the enemies' offspring. **21:10**

David believed that God would completely destroy God-mocking, God-hating families from this earth. Eschatologically speaking, this will come at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Trust Reality #4 - God would see to it that David's enemies would not succeed. **21:11**

There is tremendous theology in this verse. God takes notice of the intentions of people. He sees who is plotting things against God and against His people. Those who are devising plans against Him and His faithful people will discover they will not succeed. God will stop them. God will never permit the evil plots and plans to succeed against His faithful servants.

There may be times when it appears that the plans succeed, but in the end they don't. For example, when Jesus was here on earth, there were major plots and plans to destroy Him and ultimately it appeared that the plan succeeded, because He was nailed to the cross.

The fact is that cross is the greatest point of victory in the whole program of God. Because that cross means Israel will one day be saved as a nation and it means we may be saved as individuals.

Trust Reality #5 - God would turn them around and shoot them down. **21:12**

Evil people plot and plan to attack faithful people, but they will not ever succeed. God is the One directing their outcome. In the end, they will be forced to turn around to the direction of God and God will shoot them in the face and destroy them.

David could and did place his full trust in the Lord, for God would take care of all of David's enemies.

Being an enemy of one of God's faithful servants is a very dangerous position because eventually one will go down.

PART #3 – David cites reasons to worship. **21:13**

Notice how God's people are to respond to this. We are to exalt God. We are to lift Him up high. We are to worship and sing and praise His power.

What is the context of this worship service? The context is the destruction and the elimination of enemies. We are to praise God for His strength and His power in blessing them and in destroying their enemies.

We are to rejoice and be glad for the great work of God in the strength of His salvation and in elimination of enemies.