

Psalm 20

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; 2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; 3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah. 4 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.

5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions. 6 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. 7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. 8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.

9 Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

Introduction notes:

1. To the Chief Musician (1 Chr. 15:17). A Psalm of David – Inspired headings.
2. This Psalm is paired with the following Psalm. (20 – anticipation to answered prayers; 21 – confirmation of answered prayers). These are Royal Psalms (14 in number – 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 47, 68, 72, 89, 101, 110, 118, 132, 144) demonstrate the Messiah as the King.
3. A King's instruction for National Prayer during National Emergency – Israel's theocracy/monarchy. The leader is also the spiritual leader (Deut. 17:15-20).
4. Israel's historical precedent of Civil/Spiritual leader: Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel. PROPHECY – The Messiah – Jesus.
5. Inclusio: "hear" (v.1 & v.6).

Outline:

- I. Israel's Prayer (vv.1-4)
- II. Israel's Rejoicing (vv.5-8)
- III. Israel's Prayer (v.9)

Observations:

1. Israel's Prayer Requests (for their king):
 - A. Hear thee
 - B. Defend thee
 - C. Send thee (help)
 - D. Strengthen thee
 - E. Remember (all thy offerings)
 - E. Accept (thy burnt sacrifice)
 - F. Grant (acc. To thine own heart)
 - G. Fulfill (all thy counsel)
2. The sanctuary – Jerusalem where David placed the ark of the LORD (2 Sam. 6:17).
3. David offered a sacrifice prior to battle like Samuel did (1 Sam. 7:7-10). Solomon and subsequent kings would follow David's example (1 Kings 9:4).
4. The people rejoice when God answered their prayers. The LORD fulfilled all their eight petitions.
5. Banners – (Exo. 17:15) – a sign of triumph.
6. Prayer demonstrates faith and remembrance of the name of the LORD (2 Chr. 32:8a).

Lesson: God's people must pray for God's man. People under authority ought to pray for people in authority.

Psalm 21

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah. 3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. 4 He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever. 5 His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him. 6 For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

7 For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.

8 Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. 9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them. 10 Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men. 11 For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform. 12 Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, when thou shalt make ready thine arrows upon thy strings against the face of them.

13 Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

Introduction notes:

1. Notice the inspired headings.
2. Prophecy – v.6 (Acts 2:28) – applies to Christ. Remember: King Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

Outline:

- A. The King's Joy (v.1)
- B. The LORD's Gifts (vv.2-6)
- C. The King's Response (v.7) - Trust
- B.' The People's Expectations (vv.8-12)
- A.' The People's Joy (v.13)

Observations:

1. Answered prayers are occasions of joy.
2. (v.3) "preventest" – means to go before; to pre-event.
3. (v.7) – the king, David, trust in the LORD (Jehovah), and through his Covenant-Kindness (Gen. 12:1-3) he shall not be moved (Ps. 16:8) – bec. of God's faithfulness.
4. (vv.8-12) a kingdom demands discipline. A church also demands discipline and has authority to execute discipline (Matt. 16:19).
5. (v.9) God's ultimate judgment is a fiery judgment in the Lake of Fire for all unrepentant and unsaved sinners. (Dan. 7:11; Mk. 9:44, 46, 48; 2 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 12:29; Rev. 19:20).
6. (v.13) The only one who deserves praise for answered prayers is the LORD.

Lesson: Praise the LORD for answered prayers.