

Psalms 20

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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

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YouTube Prayer Link

Psalm 20

Victory in God, true trust

This psalm is known as the Psalm of Kings. It is sung before the battle, praying that God will enable the anointed King to succeed in victory, and is connected with the 21 thanksgiving that follows the victory of the battle.

Pleading for victory. The king, who was about to go to war, chanted as he gathered his army to pray and sacrifice to the congregation. First, offer a prayer for God's blessing (v.1~5). proclaiming the words of the king or the priest in charge of ceremonies (vv.6~8); Finally, the congregation offers a short and earnest prayer (v.9). This poem deals with the issue of life and death and is considered the most tense of the psalms. The 21 poems are the end of the poem, and the crisis of the 20 poems has been completely eliminated, and the poet presents a song of gratitude full of joy and infinite vitality.

When people have to face difficulties and challenges, they always have a sense of uneasiness and fear in their hearts, what can people rely on to win at this time? The answer in Psalm 20 is "pray." In our days of trouble, in addition to our own prayers to God, we also want others to pray for us and ask God to help us. When we are weak, God is always there for us, strengthening our hearts. (John 14:27) Let us also ask the Lord Jesus to reign in our lives so that the kingdom of heaven in our hearts may be established.

Intercession (v. 7-9) ; And the people were singing, not by chariots or horses, but by the LORD, and all the people interceded with one heart, that the LORD might save the king, and that he would answer the

king's prayer. The ancients said, "A man who has no long-term worries will have near-term worries." The Bible also says, "Man is born of a woman, and her days are short and there are many tribulations." (Job 14:1) We live in the world and encounter all kinds of afflictions, such as economics, marriages, families, relationships, and sicknesses! Jesus also said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation" (John 16:33).

The chariots and horses were very powerful on the battlefield at that time, and Israel's main enemies, the Philistines, the Syrians, and the Ammonites, all used chariots and horsemen extensively, but David's army was entirely infantry, and even if they were captured, they had to "cut off the horses that pulled the chariots" as recorded in 1 Chronicles 18, because God did not need His people to rely on strong force to fight.

Today we are all in different positions, and we can all rise up and cry out to God in unison. In the face of economic hardship, we have no choice but to rely on God. For as verse 1 says, God alone exalts man. Don't trust in human power, but put your heart into God! When we give ourselves to God, God will put His "good, pure, and pleasing will" within us (Rom. 12:1~2), thank the Lord for what a glorious promise! May we all truly trust God and give our lives to Him for His use.

We prayed together

Our heavenly Father, you are the King of kings, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and you are in control of all things in the world, and the hearts of the kings of the world are in your hands, flowing at will. You have given us all kinds of riches to make us rich in this world. Please also give us more wisdom, so that we can fight for you in the world according to your heart, not by chariots, not by horses, but by your name.

Lord; You are our strength, our King, our rock, may your Spirit be with us, strengthen us, take up the weapon of our prayers in the name of God, and ask the Lord to answer our prayers.

In the name of the Lord, amen.

Psalm 20 is a prayer of blessing and protection, traditionally attributed to King David. It is often considered a psalm of intercession, where the people of Israel ask God to protect their king, particularly in times of battle or crisis. The psalm emphasizes trust in God rather than in human strength, and it contains themes of divine protection, faith in God's intervention, and the confidence that God hears and responds to the prayers of His people.

Psalm 20 (ESV)

1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

2 May he send you help from the sanctuary

and give you support from Zion!

3 May he remember all your offerings
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah

4 May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!

5 May we shout for joy over your salvation,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.

7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

8 They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.

9 O Lord, save the king!
May he answer us when we call.

Detailed Explanation and Key Verses

Verse 1: "May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!"

This opening verse is a plea for God to respond in times of distress. Referring to God as the "God of Jacob" ties the current king's trust to the longstanding covenant between God and the forefathers of Israel, emphasizing God's role as a protector.

Verse 2: "May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!"

This verse expresses hope for divine assistance from God's holy dwelling place, Zion, symbolizing God's presence among His people. It suggests that God's intervention is immediate and rooted in His dwelling among the Israelites.

Verse 3: "May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices!"

This line highlights the sacrificial worship of the king and the people, asking God to look favorably upon their offerings and to honor their faithfulness.

Verse 4: "May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!"

This is a prayer for God to bring the king's desires and plans into reality. Since these desires and plans align with the welfare of the people, it is a call for God's blessings on the leadership and aspirations of the king.

Verse 5: "May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!"

This verse anticipates victory, expressing confidence that God will deliver the king. The act of "setting up banners" signifies a public display of victory and allegiance to God, suggesting a celebration of God's intervention and victory.

Verse 6: "Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand."

Here, the psalmist expresses assurance in God's deliverance. The term "anointed" refers to the king, who is chosen by God to lead His people. This verse underscores the belief that God is not distant but actively involved, answering prayers with divine power.

Verse 7: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

This is one of the most important verses of the psalm. It contrasts human reliance on military strength with the faith of the Israelites, who place their trust in God alone. This verse serves as a reminder that true security and victory come from God, not from human power or resources.

Verse 8: "They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright."

This verse describes the downfall of those who rely on their strength versus the resilience of those who trust in God. The verse reinforces the belief that dependence on God brings stability and victory.

Verse 9: "O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call."

The final verse is a direct plea for God to save the king, underscoring the collective reliance on divine assistance. The prayer concludes with hope and expectation that God will answer when they cry out.

Key Themes and Reflections

Divine Protection and Intervention

Psalm 20 emphasizes that God is a protector who hears and answers prayers. In times of trouble, the faithful call upon God, confident that He will support and deliver them. This theme encourages believers to rely on God's power over human means of security.

Trust in God vs. Trust in Human Power

The contrast between those who trust in "chariots and horses" (verse 7) and those who trust in God highlights a key lesson: faith should be placed in God, not in human strength or resources. This principle is crucial for believers who are often tempted to rely on their own means.

Communal Prayer and Blessing

Psalm 20 is a communal prayer, a public blessing for the king. It reflects the idea of unity in prayer, where the community collectively seeks God's favor for its leaders. This communal approach reminds believers of the power of intercessory prayer and the importance of unity.

Confidence in God's Sovereignty

The psalmist expresses confidence that God will deliver the "anointed" (verse 6). For Christians, this also foreshadows Christ as the ultimate "Anointed One." It reminds us of the security found in God's sovereign control and the belief that He acts on behalf of those He has chosen.

Spiritual Impact

Psalm 20 encourages believers to turn to God as their source of strength, especially in times of trouble or when facing seemingly insurmountable challenges. It reinforces the power of prayer, the importance of community support, and the assurance that God hears and answers. This psalm serves as a reminder that, rather than relying on our strength, we should place our trust in God's name and His ability to act,

believing that He is always with us, both in our personal struggles and in the trials we face as a community.