

PSALM 20: Prayer And Trust.

This is in the voice of a group of people praying on behalf of the King of Israel as he is ready to go into battle. The first-person singular response is likely the response of either David himself or the High Priest on his behalf.

1. (1-5) May the LORD answer and help.

The picture is that of King David, before battle - at the tabernacle of God and offering prayers and sacrifices before the battle. David needed an answer of success and God's help.

Sacrifice was commonly made at important moments, such as on the eve of battle. This is a prayer that the LORD would see and receive the sacrifices King David would make before war.

This understands that *not all* sacrifices are accepted before God. If they were not offered with faith and in accordance with the Levitical system, they would not be remembered or accepted by God.

In this moment, King David had one desire - to defend the people of God and the kingdom in covenant with God. Therefore it was good to pray, "**May He grant you according to your heart's desire.**"

Since David's **purpose** was victory for the people of God, this was a good and necessary prayer to pray. The **banners** are "Our flags of defiance to the enemy, or our tokens of triumph to God's glory, who hath given us the victory." (Trapp)

Proverbs 21:1 - *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

2. (6-9) The King's Confidence.

Here King David expressed the great confidence that God would answer the prayers of His people. God would save (rescue) the king (**His anointed**). David knew what kings and their people usually trusted in - human strength and the ways it is often expressed (**in chariots and in horses**).

Deuteronomy 17:16 - *"But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'*

Proverbs 3:5 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Psalm 21: The Victorious and Joyful King.

The victory prayed for and trusted in has been realized, and now those who prayed for David join him in giving thanks to the LORD for the victory given.

1. (1) The king's joy.

The **strength** and **salvation** of God came to David in response to both the **desire** of his heart and in-line prayers (**the request of his lips**).

2. (2-7) Reasons for the king's joy.

God granted desires, blessings of goodness, life and length of days, salvation, made him most blessed; exceedingly glad with God's presence, strength...

3. (8-10) God's enemies and their judgment.

David recognized that even though he was victorious in battle, God was done finding and judging His **enemies**.

David confidently expressed his confidence that God would judge His enemies, and he expressed that confidence in the strongest terms - even that God would also judge the posterity of those who fight against Him.

4. (13) Praising the God of strength.

David worshipped God directly here. He exalted the Lord who had this great strength within Himself, and never needs to rely on another for strength.

After the direct statement of praise, David expressed the determination that he and the people of God would *continue* to praise God, and to do so in song.

Psalm 68:4 - *Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.*