

Psalms Chapter 20 Commentary

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

This Psalm is a song written by King David, to teach Israel how to pray for their leaders, and especially their king. King David understands that if the people do not have confidence in their king, and do not have confidence in God, their prayers will be in vain, and they can expect no success nor salvation from God or their king.

Ps 20:1 The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;" King David first instructs them to ask God to hear his prayer in the "**day of trouble**." Why? Because there had been times in King David's life that he was in deep trouble and near to falling before men, yet God in his mercy, and because of his promise to him, preserved his life. King David knew that this was God answering his prayers.

"the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;" Jacob was one of the forefathers with whom God made an eternal covenant, God protected and preserved Jacob in his life journey. Jacob was said to have power with God, when he wrestled with the angel, the preincarnate Christ, in **Ge 32:28 "And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."** King David is teaching Israel: as Jacob had power with God, because he would not let the angel go until he had received a blessing; so, David is teaching them to pray to God; and as Jacob, hold on tightly to God, and do not let him go, until the blessing of God is received.

How can this be applied to us and the New Testament Church? The church must pray for God's called out ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, their King. If they expect the ministers to preach the fullness and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, they must continue in prayer to God the Father. This teaches us that as Jacob was by the brook when he wrestled with the angel, when we come near the river of the water of life, we have only one that we can grab hold of and not let go, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus will grant us his blessing to fulfill our need.

2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; 3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah."

King David knew that God's presence was identified with the sanctuary, and especially the ark of the covenant, which was covered by the mercy seat. David is teaching Israel to pray that God will send his Holy presence to be with King David and strengthen King David out of Zion. Understand, in Zion, the city of David, is where the sanctuary and the mercy seat are, in the place King David prepared for them to be near him.

The sanctuary is the type of Jesus on the throne of God in heaven. We are all to pray that Jesus will petition God the Father, and our Father will send help from heaven. Actually, God has already sent help from heaven by two means: one is that God sent Jesus to rescue us eternally from ourselves and our enemy, Satan: two is that when Jesus returned to the eternal heaven to sit upon his rightful throne, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be instilled in us and to give us the strength to fight the battles of the Lord upon the earth, that his name might be glorified upon the earth.

King David tells the people: ask God to remember all the offerings he has made to God, and to accept the burnt sacrifice that he has already made on this occasion.

When we pray to God in heaven, we have only one acceptable sacrifice to offer to God the Father, which is the finished work of our King, Jesus the Christ. This is an offering that God the Father will not refuse, because God has already accepted the finished work of Christ. God has already granted God's chosen people eternal forgiveness of sins, and gifted to them eternal life, which is manifested to us in the new birth.

4 "Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel." King David is teaching Israel to remember that I am a man after God's own heart, but I am a man not God. You are to ask that God's will be accomplished, in fulfilling God's promises to your king, which will fulfill God's will and purpose.

This is exactly what happened when Jesus came to earth as King in a prepared mortal body. Jesus fulfilled all that God the Father gave him to accomplish in saving God's people from their sins. Jesus is the only mortal man that fulfilled all the law commandments without failure and had no sin to his charge. This gave Jesus the right, to offer himself as the true sacrifice for the sins of God's chosen people and to fulfill the whole council of God the Father. We shall see this fully manifested in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ at the end of time.

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." King David is teaching Israel to pray with expectation, as if their prayers are already accepted and answered in the affirmative. Then believing in the total victory of God over their enemies, they will set up their banners,

each tribe of Israel had a different banner, and rejoice in the salvation of God. King David further teaches them to always be praying for God to answer all their prayers, and their king's prayers.

This is found to be true in the lives of all of God's people, because in their new birth they all rejoice in salvation by the grace of God. Therefore, they are willing to take up their cross daily and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

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." Now, King David speaks on his own behalf, teaching Israel that as I have total confidence in the salvation of God, he will not only hear my prayers, but will also hear your prayers in heaven. God will save by the strength of his right hand. King Jesus knew before he came to earth that God the Father would always hear him and would save him from the hands of satanic evil. Even though Jesus had to die a mortal death, he was not left in the grave, because God the Father gave Jesus the ability to resurrect his own body. God the Father also gave him the ability, to ascend back to the eternal heaven, and take his seat at the right hand of the Father. You can all rest assured that the right hand of God is Jesus, on whom is saving strength of God to man.

We have the assurance that our prayers are heard; because of the covenant promise between God the Father and God the Son. God the Father fulfilled all the prayers of King Jesus. We know this because Jesus tells us when He prayed out loud at the grave of Lazarus in *Joh 11:41 "And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."* This is one reason we have a public prayer. Jesus hears us, as God heard Jesus.

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." King David teaches Israel in this song: some who have risen against Israel in the past, and those we are facing fight now, who trust in chariots and horses, are fallen before the hand of our mighty God. Wherefore, we have risen victorious, and we can stand upright and give glory and praise to our mighty God.

God is teaching us, as He did Israel, we are not to trust in idols, nor man, for eternal salvation. Jesus the mortal man was sent from heaven in a prepared body and died a mortal death: that King Jesus might arise and stand upright on the throne of God to make intercessions for us here in time.

9 "Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call." King David teaches Israel to pray to God for their salvation. King David teaches them to request of God that God their king always hear them.

After the new birth, we understand that salvation is of the Lord, and we petition God, in the name of King Jesus, and God will always hear us when we call, if we do not ask amiss. Just as God the Father always heard God the Son when he called. We do not know how to pray as we ought, but King Jesus takes our feeble attempts and presents them to God the Father in an acceptable manner. We can pray effectual and fervent prayers to God the Father, through the Holy Spirit power in us, and God will always hear these prayers and answer, as seen in *Jas 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

The effectual fervent prayer, of our righteous King Jesus, was heard by God the Father and accepted. Now, the answer to that prayer is being fulfilled on earth as seen in *Joh 17:15, 24; 15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 ¶ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 ¶ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."* Wherefore, because Jesus has already prayed for us, we can rest assured that God the Father will hear our prayers and deliver us out of all evil. The prayer of Jesus, in verse 24 will be fully answered in the eternal resurrection. *24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."* Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord! Amen!