

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;

Psalm 20 is a song that was to be sung by the people. It was composed by King David and was to set the hearts and minds of Israel in the right perspective in:

- David directs them to be in remembrance of God in the day of trouble.
- David reminds them to remember, and bring before God, the covenant promise of God to Jacob. The King reminds the people; the God we serve and trust in; is the God that made a promise to Jacob, our father, that he would make him into many nations and would preserve his seed, that the name of the Lord might be lifted up and exalted upon the earth.
- King David directs them to ask for the defense that would deliver them (the very presence, the name, of God) and make them conquerors over their enemies.

2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

King David directs the people to ask of God, that God send his very presence from the sanctuary, and to let that presence be in their hearts and give them strength.

We know that the sanctuary (which was in Zion where King David had prepared a place for it) was the place where the presence of God would meet with them. It was the source of their guidance and deliverance as seen in: **Ex 25:22** *"And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."*

3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.

King David is directing the people, in this song, to come before the Lord in an orderly fashion as directed by God and to make all their sacrifices in the proper order, that their sacrifices might be accepted of God.

We have the same commandments in: **Mt 5:23** *"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."* Jesus is saying to us; get your house in order before you come to me seeking my divine protection. You know all the things you are supposed to do in order to seek my face with effectual and fervent prayers.

Mt 21:21-22; 21 *"Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* We see that King David was setting the example for Israel as Jesus set the example for us.

4 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.

King David here reminds them, if your prayers are heartfelt and just (fervent and righteous) in the sight of God, your petitions will be heard by God and granted. God will send the counsel needed to bring about the deliverance of his people when they seek him with their whole heart.

We have the same commandment and confirmation in the New Testament in: **Jas 5:16** *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

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 directs them to remember that they are to believe that God will answer their prayers. We have the same commandment in: **Mt 21:22** *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."*

King David tells them: Believe in the deliverance and salvation of the Lord. We have this command in: **Ro 5:1-2; 1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."** When delivered; give God all the glory and praise he justly deserves, and continue to pray to God for daily deliverance, asking God to continue to hear thy prayers

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.

King David tells them to sing, of the salvation of their king, the chosen one of God that has been anointed by God to serve in that position over his people.

King David tells them: I believe, and you should also, because God has many times proven that He has the power and strength and does deliver his people and their king.

We know that our King, Jesus Christ, believed in God the Father, and his delivering power, for he told us in: **#Joh 11:42 "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."** when he prayed out loud for God the Father to raise Lazarus from the dead. We know this to be true because Christ has raised us from the dead and delivered us, just as King David had been delivered many times, along with Israel, which was one way they knew he was the Lord's anointed.

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

King David tells Israel to remember what God directed Israel through Moses long ago in: **De 17:16 "But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."** King David reminds them that God has directed that we do not have great host of horses and chariots; because of what we see in this next reference. **De 20:1 "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."** King David reminds them that other people trust in chariots and horses to gain them victory, but God's people trust solely in God to deliver them.

You have in remembrance all the victories of God over the enemies of Israel, from the time of Israel's deliverance from Egypt until today, as examples of what to expect from God. Therefore, remember the name of the Lord, who is your God of deliverance.

8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.

The enemies of God's people have always fallen before God and always will. In accomplishing destruction of your enemies, God will also lift you up and set you upon a hill, that the glory of God, and his power and might, will be seen by all and all will fear and tremble before God.

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

King David reminds them here that their salvation is of the Lord. King David tells them to remember that they are not petitioning King David: they are praying for their anointed king, unto the true King of kings and Lord of lords.

In summation, we can go back through this Psalm and the notes recorded and make application to our own lives today.

We have today an anointed King, one Jesus, who is God's chosen King over his people. Jesus Christ is the one to whom we may seek and bring our prayers, that He might bring our petitions to God the Father, and remind God the Father that I have, through complete obedience to your wishes, delivered this people from the bondage of sin, and set them upon a hill to bring glory and praise to your name.

Oh, that we might be of such minds today, to continue to pray for the leaders of our nation, and God might continue to protect and keep us safe from our enemies.

Now, we may take this on a more personal level and remember, that the churches are to be in prayer for their pastors and ministers, that God will fill them with guidance, and they in turn might bring the people to remembrance, of the promises of God for his people's salvation to continue in time.

How great and glorious is our King, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! May we always bring our petitions to him, and ask God to continue to show that God has delivered him and set him King over his people. May God grant that our

petitions be heard and we may pray to him, bringing to remembrance the many promises of God, and trusting fully in the salvation of our Saviour.

Let us sing the hymns of grace to the Lord and remember that Christ is our Saviour and strength. Glory and Praise, to the name of our God forever, Amen!