

PSALMS 20

Although the title of this psalm reads “A Psalm of David” it is clearly also a psalm “concerning” David and, by implication of David being a type of Christ, this is also a Messianic psalm. With that obvious Messianic implication, then we see a whole new prayer direction for Christians. We praise God, we petition God, we give thanks to God but how often do we consciously pray for the Lord to be victorious in the spiritual battles that are on-going in the heavens? We could argue that to pray for Jesus to be victorious would be redundant since He already has won the victory. However, we do pray, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” This prayer for God’s will to be accomplished may be that very prayer for the Lord to be victorious in battles.

PRAYER FOR VICTORY (verses 1-4)

{20:1} May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. {2} May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. {3} May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. Selah {4} May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

This psalm is a song or poem that calls for a blessing upon the king of the nation as he was preparing for battle with the enemies of Israel. It is also a prayer for victory in all of life’s issues that people face. It could be used as a blessing for a couple just beginning a marriage or for a child who is leaving home to go to college or to starting living on his own.

We need to bless each other with words that encourage and motivate people to be successful in the things of life that really count. Those who trust in God and have all their confidence in Him will find that His ways are best. As we mature in our walk with the Lord, we realize more and more that what He wants and works out for us is the very best.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND HIS ANOINTED (verses 5-6)

{5} We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.

As children of God we should rejoice at the blessings others receive and be able to truly want the best for all those who love God. Notice the confidence in the use of the word “when” and not “if” you are victorious.

{6} Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heaven with the saving power of his right hand.

Though this was likely written about David, this passage is Messianic. The fulfillment culminated in the resurrection of Jesus. We can also claim this blessedness in our walk with the Lord. We can depend upon His to “save” us on a daily basis.

GOD’S ULTIMATE VICTORY AND THE DEFEAT OF HIS ENEMIES (verses 7-8)

{7} Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. {8} They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

The contrast to those who are in the world system is shown by those who trust in material things, fame, and their own power. All these things will fail but the word and promises of God are eternal.

FINAL APPEAL TO GOD (verse 9)

{9} O LORD, save the king! Answer us when we call!

This verse was first penned with king David in mind. It can be applied to Christ as the head or king of the church (the army of God) as He leads us into battles today. Finally, this appeal can be applied to individual Christians who have been made “kings and priests unto God”

for victories in our daily battles that we encounter in carrying out the mandate of the Lord's Commission and in our struggles with victory over self. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb 7:25)