

PSALMS 20 and 21

The general purpose of this psalm is rather obvious: David is asking the people of Israel to offer up a prayer for him. In verses 1-5 the prayer is presented, in verses 6-8 an expression of the king's success is given, and in verse 9 there is a summary petition by way of conclusion. If King David coveted the prayers of his people, shall not we do the same?

Psalm 20

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 May YAHWEH 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 YAHWEH fulfill all your petitions!
- 6 Now I know that YAHWEH 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 YAHWEH our God.
- 8 They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.
- 9 O YAHWEH, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

This psalm is a companion piece to the preceding psalm. Let us also trust in Yahweh our God. Let us cast ourselves on the steadfast love of the Most High, for we are utterly helpless in our own strength.

Psalm 21

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 O YAHWEH, in your strength the king rejoices,
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!
- 2 You have given him his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah
- 3 For you meet him with rich blessings; you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
- 4 He asked life of you; you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever.

- 5 His glory is great through your salvation; splendor and majesty you bestow on him.
6 For you make him most blessed forever;
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.
7 For the king trusts in YAHWEH,
and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.
- 8 Your hand will find out all your enemies;
your right hand will find out those who hate you.
9 You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear.
YAHWEH will swallow them up in his wrath, and fire will consume them.
10 You will destroy their descendants from the earth,
and their offspring from among the children of man.
11 Though they plan evil against you, though they devise mischief, they will not succeed.
12 For you will put them to flight; you will aim at their faces with your bows.
- 13 Be exalted, O YAHWEH, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power.

PRAYER

O blessed Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, after your conquest over the grave and hell you ascended in great triumph into your kingdom in heaven, that you might prepare mansions of eternal bliss for those you love you. And you have graciously promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to sustain the poor in spirit. Look down with compassion upon us, your frail and erring children, who seek refuge in your strength. Enable us to mortify all our carnal and worldly lusts, and let all things belonging to the Spirit live and grow in us so that we may adorn your doctrine in all things. Bless your church here on earth, counteracting all the designs of her enemies. Draw together the hearts of your faithful people in unity of spirit, and thus we will together rejoice in the merits of a crucified Redeemer. We praise your holy name. Amen.