



**Intercession, Then Praise
How to Pray for and Rejoice With Others
Psalm 20 & 21**

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What happens when the bottom drops out and you are facing a crisis that only the Lord can get you out of? Do we look to the Lord, or do we try and resolve everything ourselves first? Then after we have tried that and it didn't work, do we then turn to the Lord?

Unfortunately, various crisis as we do life are not going to be the exception. We will all go through a time or times where we must rely on the Lord to get us to the other side.



If you are praying for or ministering to someone going through a crisis, since you may have been there before yourself. What do you do?

What we see here in Psalm 20 is an intercessory prayer. This is a prayer that you, if indeed you pray for others in their time of need, provides a go to framework of how to effectively intercede for our brother or sister in their time of need. The battle is hot and heavy and intercession for them is desired.

But there is a time when the battle is over. The crisis has come to an end. Don't do as many tend to, forget about what the Lord has done as a result of your intercession, what He has done with the victory you have achieved through Him. No, praise Him and celebrate for what He just did. That is what we see in Psalm 21.

These two psalms fit together pretty well as one is for those about to or already engaging with the enemy, and the other psalm is a psalm of victory and praise.

From the surface these appear to be straight forward prayers for the King prior to the battle and the praises of the King after the battle, but the first speaks to intercessory prayer and the second teaches us how to praise and celebrate our victories when He answers our prayers. Let's examine them.

Psalm 20:title-3

"For the music director. A Psalm of David. May the LORD answer you on a day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! May He send you help from the sanctuary, And support you from Zion! May He remember all your meal offerings And accept your burnt offering! Selah" (NASB 2020)

David wrote this for the music director. Why did David write so many psalms to the music director. The easiest way to learn scripture and to learn sound doctrine is with a catchy tune. Creating songs, literally creating worship music for worshippers to sing teaches the worshippers about who it is they are worshipping and how we relate to Him.

Psalms is part of God's special revelation to us, it is worship music, and all worship music today should do the same. We hear a tune and whether you have specifically memorized the words or not, you remember many of them, especially if you sang to them several times.

As a means to reinforce our walk with Christ, you can't beat worship music. But there is also a negative side to worship music today as well. It is a business for many.

As a business, not all who are involved are even saved. Much of the "popular" worship music is essentially, that which will sell downloads and then get picked up by churches to get on the payment of royalties' gravy train.

In addition, there are those who have ulterior motives behind the words. Not every worship song is true to God's word. Some actually proclaim and teach something other than the truth.

Yes, worship music is also, at times, a tool of the devil to destroy the Biblical worldview of the church today.

There are those who are fully intending to use worship music as a soft gateway to introduce non-Biblical doctrines. "The songs Christians sing, especially in church services, are powerful. They aren't just words on your lips, they express beliefs that penetrate your heart. Many people go home after a service and keep singing the songs long after they've forgotten the pastor's message. Like it or not, belief is woven into hearts through music. Contemporary Christian music is the catechism of today's evangelical church.



So we must always ask what message is being conveyed by a song's lyrics." (Pivec and Geivett 2022, 140)

Worse, there is also alleged worship music that soft pedals the gospel if it is even referenced at all. The goal is to entertain, allegedly in a Biblical fashion, allowing folks to enjoy the music, even sing along without feeling guilty, without referencing sin, and not offend at all. Do not look for churches that are oriented towards this type of alleged teaching to ever sing "Nothing But the Blood."

Here at Calvary Chapel, when the Lord brings who He wants to come and lead singing for us, we will be singing songs to help us learn scripture as well as bring us into the throne room of the God of the universe whom we wish to worship.

There will be music produced by certain labels and artists that we will avoid because much of it has a New Apostolic Reformation or some other message embedded in the lyrics. Carefully crafted music can go right to the heart and the emotions and if the lyrics are uplifting and Biblically sound, great. But then there are those songs with a catchy hook that later you find yourself humming to and when you examine what the words say, you are shocked to learn the concepts or theology behind the words is not exactly sound Biblical stuff. Yes, we must be Bereans about the music we listen to or sing as well.

Growing up, Dad was a television host in the early days of television, and the station hosted a series of special viewings of South Pacific at the local theater. After seeing South Pacific five times, I knew the music but had no idea what many of the words meant.

I still remember getting in deep trouble walking through the house singing the words and tune of "There is Nothing Like a Dame," the non-politically correct version.

I still remember many of the words today yet never sat down to intentionally memorize them. Music can do that. Both good and in my case, not so good.

David knows that and is putting together true worship music for his people and for us because we need help. Here are a few suggestions for us as we sort through worship music in these days of deception. As you listen to the words ask yourself, "Do I believe that what these words are saying is true? What are my reasons for believing they are true? Are they consistent with Scripture? Or do I believe they're true simply because everyone singing around me, in a worship service, seems to believe they are true? And what are the lyrics telling me about how I should live my life or act? Are they encouraging me to live in a manner consistent with or contrary to the teachings of Scripture? If the lyrics seem true enough, you should ask some additional questions: Are they profound? Do they express truths of special importance, or are they theologically weak, vague, and overly repetitive? Taken together, do the songs we sing highlight various aspects of God and Christian belief, or harp on the same few subjects over and over (such as miracles, miracles, and more miracles)? To help you answer these questions, compare the words of a popular (worship) tune with a theologically rich and long-treasured hymn that has stood the test of time. Or read the Bible's songbook, the Book of Psalms...The paltry lyrics of so many of today's songs reflect the paltry theology of the songwriters." And we continue to discover that many of these so-called Christian song writers, were never faithful or even believers in the first place. (Pivec and Geivett 2022, 151-152)

David shows us in this song how to intercede for someone who is needing victory and facing a day of distress, a crisis. As we begin this song, we see those petitions that the one praying is indeed seeking an answer from the Lord for, on behalf of someone else.



One more thing as we get into this, notice the prayer for protection from the “name of the God of Jacob.” In the Bible we see references to the God of Israel as well as the God of Jacob. YAHWEH is the same God in both cases, but what is being communicated with the term, God of Jacob versus God of Israel?

The two titles are both reflective of a transformation that took place in one man's relationship with YAHWEH, Jacob. Jacob, whose name means heel catcher, was a conniver, schemer, highly self-centered and one who struggled with his relationship with God even going as far as wrestling with Him. When his name is changed to Israel, a name which means God wrestles or God rules, his life has changed and the self-sufficient one changes, and we see it in his life after the encounter in Genesis 32:24-30.

When we see references to the God of Israel, it is a reflection of God's people are obedient and following.

When we see God of Jacob referenced, it means YAHWEH will continue to be faithful despite the unfaithfulness of His people.

As David relates this intercessory prayer, he is praying for God to move in the life of someone else and even if the individual who he is praying for, has not been totally faithful, covered. He is praying to the God of Jacob, the one who saved Jacob, the one who can save the one he is praying for.

Listen to what David instructs us to pray for as interceders.

Psalms 20:1–5

“May the LORD **answer you** on a day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob **protect you!** May He **send you help** from the sanctuary, And **support you** from Zion! May He **remember all your meal offerings** And **accept your burnt offering!** Selah May He **grant you your heart's desire** And **fulfill your whole plan!** We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your desires.” (NASB 2020)

Eight things are being prayed for here in this intercessory prayer. The way it is stated is in the manner you or I may tell someone how we have been praying for them.

Intercession looks like this. When we are in crisis, the first thing we want to know is this, does God hear and is He listening to me in this?

As we pray, we are asking, up front, that the Lord indeed answer their prayers, that they are made aware of His presence and that they know He indeed cares for them and is listening to them. I am praying that God hears and answers you.

None of us are exempt from trouble and none of us are exempt from the fear that arises in those times of testing when we feel like God is far away. Give yourself permission to ask for prayer. Not to replace or supersede what you are praying for, but to second your own prayers.

I learned a long time ago that I need to not only do I pray for myself but pray for others as well. I also ask for others to pray for me. That I would remain totally and completely faithful to our Lord and Savior and teach His word as He wants it to be taught.

The next thing to pray for when interceding for someone, is that the Lord would protect the one you are praying for. In the midst of crisis, the one we are praying for may not be as cognizant of their own risk and safety as they would be normally. So, we pray for them, we must remember to pray for their protection and salvation from the crisis. That is implied in the use of the name God of Jacob.



During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, I received letters from people I did not know. The corporation I worked for had publicized all of those who worked for them who had been recalled to active duty. Each and every letter I received, and not all came with a return address, said they were praying for me and specifically said they were praying for my protection. That meant so much to me to know that.

As a church, this is something we need to be sensitive to, because during that same time period, I did not receive one single letter or note from anyone at the church we were going to at the time.

As we intercede before the throne for others, pray that the Lord answer their prayers as well as protect them.

In crisis, at least when I have been there, I need help from the Lord sometimes just to make it to the next day. So, as we intercede for our brothers and sisters, the next thing we do is ask the Lord to send help to them from the throne room. If they know Jesus, then what we are doing is asking the Holy Spirit to come and be even more of a helper than normal. To carry them if necessary and sometimes it is necessary. To pray for others is hard work because you may not ever get the full story back from them other than they made it.

Psalms 20:2

"May He send you help from the sanctuary, And support you from Zion!" (NASB 2020)

All we know, all we have been told is the one(s) we are praying for need His protection. If you spend anytime at all praying for those who are in the mission field, including right here in this country, protection, help and support is essential. The enemy wants all of those who step out and serve the Lord dead or at least ineffective. We have seen evidence of that this past week as we see the attempt to attack a church in one case and in another, an attack that took place. Violence is a sign of the end of the age, pray for help from the Lord, the Holy Spirit as well as support and protection.

In those times where I have been under pressure, in crisis due to a test, a question always comes up. Yes, the first is, are you hearing me and listening to me Lord, but the other is, have you seen how I am offering you all of me? The prayer David says we would pray as we intercede and pray for someone is that all their meal offerings be remembered and their burnt offering accepted.

We are not totally familiar with what that would mean since many of us are not totally familiar with the various sacrifices and offerings that were in effect at the time David writes this.

In contrast to the burnt-offering in which there was always the giving of a life to God, the meal-offering was made from wheat. This grain required man's diligent cultivation. Then, before it could be offered it had to be harvested and further processed by man. **As the burnt-offering represented the offerer giving his life—himself—to God, the meal-offering represented the worshiper giving to God of his food, the fruits of his labors. By this act the offerer acknowledged that his material benefits came through the aid and goodness of God.** (Peisker 1967, 301)

As we pray for others, we are praying the Lord hear them and answer them, that He protects them and the Holy Spirit supports and helps them as well. We would also pray that as they give themselves to the Lord that they would indeed all of themselves to Him in this trial or test they are in. Engaging with the enemy can wear you out and without having His power and strength in us, impossible to do. There is the consistent need to give ourselves everyday to the Lord (Romans 12:1). We are praying that the Lord would see the one we are praying for do this and that as they continue to offer themselves to Him, that He would indeed honor that.



For, after all, our capacities are gifts of God, entrusted to us for stewardship. Our attainments, accumulations, and accomplishments increase our responsibilities and must be consecrated to the Lord. They are but resources for ever-widening usefulness in building God's kingdom. (Peisker 1967, 301)

As we pray for and intercede, we are asking the Lord to use them and to remember how they have offered themselves up to Him. That their life would be of use to the Lord as they have surrendered to Him.

Yes, it is okay to remind the Lord the one you are praying for is a believer who needs to be reminded that following Jesus is all worth it.

Psalm 20:4

"May He grant you your heart's desire And fulfill your whole plan!" (NASB 2020)

As we continue to pray for our brother or sister, we have asked the Lord to answer them and be real for them, to protect them and be provided with help and support from the Holy Spirit, something we know we are already promised by Jesus in John 16. We have reminded the Lord of their commitment to Him and surrender to Him leading us up to what we see in verse 4.

For the one who is fully surrendered to the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit and in fellowship with Him, even in times of stress, we can pray that what they desire, and we agree with, to be out of this and to move on with what the Lord has next for them, indeed be the case.

Trials and tests, something we would also call a crisis, have a tendency to reorder our lives and help us to see what is important versus what is not important at all.

What would you want and pray for more than anything else when in the middle of a trial, test or an extended engagement with the enemy? For it to be over would be number one my list. It is okay to pray for that for others. This is not a prayer for "give them whatever they want and fulfill their wildest dreams," not at all. This is something we can indeed look to as we pray for other followers and intercede for them.

In Christ Jesus sanctified souls may appropriate this verse as a promise; they shall have their desire, and their plans to glorify their Master shall succeed. We may have our own will when our will is God's will. This was always the case with our Lord, and yet he said, "not as I will, but as thou wilt." What need for submission in our case; if it was necessary to him, how much more for us! (Spurgeon n.d., 301)

As we intercede for our brothers and sisters, we are also praying that their heart and desire are fully aligned with the Holy Spirit.

That alignment to true north means the heart's desire, ours as well as the ones we are praying for, that this is over and victory is achieved, is indeed the case. That also means that those plans which are now able to be engaged in, in alignment with the Holy Spirit, are indeed fulfilled.

Warfare and worship go together. This becomes clear with what we will be able to tell those we pray for that we will do even before they have seen the deliverance the Lord will achieve on their behalf.

Psalm 20:5

"We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your desires." (NASB 2020)

Having spent time already praying for a brother or sister, looking to the Lord for victory on their behalf, as an encourager, you spend time with them and let them know that you will be right there with them as the victory is achieved. We will get to that in Psalm 21. It is not an if in the Lord, but a when.



We have been praying for a place to meet in. God knows what our finances are like and what we can afford. He also knows who He is going to bring to our fellowship and how we can love on them in His name.

I know, because I have been told by those who are doing so, that there are others who are interceding on behalf of Calvary Chapel. And all of us are more than ready to sing for joy over what God's going to do. We literally already have banners ready to be set up. What we do know, it is only because of Him.

Psalm 20:6–9

“Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand. Some praise their chariots and some their horses, But we will praise the name of the LORD, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, But we have risen and stood upright. Save, LORD; May the King answer us on the day we call.” (NASB 2020)

David has been talking about how he will intercede for another with the Lord. He has encouraged the one he is praying for that the Lord will provide the victory they are looking for.

Here, he reflects that he knows the Lord will save.

David has shifted footing here in his intercessory prayer to being the proclaimer of good news. He has confidence who God is and that He does indeed reflect this here his prayer. We can join with David in this confidence.

Confidence in the Lord being expressed by someone who is praying for you is so valuable. I am so thankful for those who pray for me and for Calvary Chapel. And their faith and confidence in what the Lord is doing, I just cannot say enough.

Paul would later reflect this same confidence in the Lord.

Romans 8:28–32

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (ESV)

God does indeed save those who are His, He saves His anointed. That would be you and me as followers of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:27

“But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.” (ESV)

We too know that as we pray for our brother or sister, the Lord does indeed save, and He will indeed answer their prayer. David uses what he is familiar with as the King, when he is victorious, what is easy to forget.

Our victory in a trial, a test, or whatever it is the Lord has brought you through has nothing to do with any temporal thing, to include whatever resources we have that could be used. In the world of combat, some



would praise their resources, David knows better, and we do too. We are not to praise the resources that are used to help resolve what we were going through, we are instead to praise the name of the Lord our God who provided them.

How do we go about doing life during and after the test, the trial or whatever it is we needed the Lord to show up for, we do life praising the Lord our God.

Those who do not have the Lord would wind up being bowed down and fallen but not the believer. As we pray and as we stand in what He has promised He will do, agreeing with the promises as we pray for our brother or sister, we stand upright before the Lord. Looking to Him for salvation.

David would have us engage in intercessory prayer and he also wants us to see the results and live “in the already-and-not-yet moment of having received and believed that promise. Thus, the psalmist at the same time expresses confidence that the LORD will deliver, even as the psalmist continues to pray Grant deliverance.” (Jacobson and Tanner 2014, 220)

Now that we are on the other side and God has shown up as promised. Now what?

When you have been seeking the Lord and found yourself in a situation that only God could get you out. Now that you are out, how should we react?

As one who has interceded for another, when the Lord answers prayer, do we rejoice along with the one we were praying for?

We join with David here as he refers to himself in the third person and once again, for the music director. We are going to learn how to celebrate the victories the Lord gives us. That is indeed ok to do.

Psalm 21:title-6

“For the music director. A Psalm of David. **LORD, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice! You have given him his heart’s desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips.** Selah For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked for life from You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with the joy of Your presence.” (NASB 2020)

When we pray, do we expect the Lord to answer our prayers? Do we expect Him to want to give us “good things.” Do we expect Him to give us our hearts desire? When Jesus further clarified this for us, He did so on a background of need rather than desire.

But as we have just seen as we prayed for another in Psalm 20, we asked the Lord to hear them, protect them, help them support them as well as give them what it is they desire from the Lord. We also said that we would sing for joy over their victory. Now that is time to do.

“The “good things” which God will surely give do not necessarily include everything that his children might like to have. The “carte blanche” approach to petitionary prayer does not find support from the NT as a whole. It is God as the Father in heaven who knows what is “good” for his children, and as with a human parent his generosity may not always coincide with the child’s wishes.” (France 2007, 279)

Matthew 7:7-11

““Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for



a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (NET 2nd ed.)

David is now expressing that the prayers have been answered. It is time for us to rejoice along with who we interceded for and rejoice in what the Lord has given us.

As we see here in Psalm 21, we rejoice in:

- God's strength that has been applied on our behalf.
- God has provided the victory, the salvation from the situation.
- God has indeed provided our hearts desire, and we are now on the other side.
- God has answered our prayers.

By the way, we are rejoicing along with David over what the Lord has done for him and for Israel, but don't forget, the Lord also has done this for you and me, and He does so daily. Even if we are not under pressure at the time.

This should speak to all of us as followers of Jesus Christ about the special place that answered prayer should have in our lives.

Every Christian should know the thrill of frequent, wonderful answers to prayer. When a Christian does not enjoy the blessing of answered prayer it is because they are prayerless, praying wrongly, or because of some hindrance in prayer. (Guzik 2013, Ps 21:1-2)

What? My prayers could be hindered? Yes, that is indeed the case. When our prayers seem like they are bouncing off the walls or seem to be hindered, it is time for internal review.

Hindrances to Prayer (Partial List)

- Anxiety – Phillipians 4:6
- Disobedience – Micah 3:4
- Doubt – James 1:5-7
- Failure to pray – James 4:2
- Straying away from Christ – John 15:7
- Faithlessness – Hebrews 11:6
- Turning from God – Proverbs 1:24-32
- Pride – James 4:6
- Hypocrisy – Matthew 15:1-9
- Idolatry of any kind – Jeremiah 11:10-11
- Marital relationships that are out of whack – 1 Peter 3:7
- Meaningless repetition – Matthew 6:7
- Prayers that are outside God's will – 1 John 5:14
- Unconfessed sin – John 9:31
- Unforgiveness – Mark 11:25

How do we correct the situation?

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (NASB 2020)



Our prayers are not answered as if the avoidance of these things earns or merits God's response, or if He is in debt to us if we do not do them. Yet they are clearly hindrances to answered prayer. (Guzik 2013, Ps 21:1-2)

Relationship is the thing David is pointing at and what Jesus also pointed to as well. Abiding in Him keeps us safe.

John 15:4–10

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.**

Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. **But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.** This brings great glory to my Father. “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.**” (NLT)

What is it that God has done for David and by extension, for the one we have interceded for?

Psalms 21:3–7

“For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked for life from You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with the joy of Your presence. For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the faithfulness of the Most High he will not be shaken.” (NASB 2020)

God meets us with blessings of good things. So much for chasing down a blessing, He meets us in victory as we have relied on Him and now as we rejoice in what He has done, He meets us and blesses us.

This is all about the grace of God. He is the one who has sought us, we didn't seek Him at all.

Romans 5:6–11

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) **But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God’s wrath. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life?** Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.” (NET 2nd ed.)

It is God who rewards for our faithfulness. It is God who, in the work Jesus Christ did on the cross for us, gives us eternal life and provides us with His great salvation at no cost to us. All we do is believe.

Jesus Christ is also the one who will have us rule and reign with Him. He indeed will place splendor and majesty on us (Revelation 5:10) just as God did upon David.

As followers of Jesus, we have victory in and through Him. As we come through another trial and see the victory in Christ on the other side, we, like David, also realize that we are blessed forever. Why? Because we will spend eternity in the presence of God.



With all He has done for us and through us and for the victories we achieve through Him and Him alone, we too join with David in our faith of the Lord, and our trust in Him. Once again, He has proven Himself to be faithful and as such, we remain in Him unshaken.

There is also one other way to view Psalm 21 and that is as Messianic.

Everything we see here in Psalm 21:3-7 can also be applied to Jesus Christ, victorious after the cross.

Psalm 21:3-7

“For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked for life from You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever. His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him. For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with the joy of Your presence. For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the faithfulness of the Most High he will not be shaken.” (NASB 2020)

Eternal mercy secures the mediatorial throne of Jesus. He who is Most High in every sense, engages all his infinite perfections to maintain the throne of grace upon which our King in Zion reigns. He was not moved from his purpose, nor in his sufferings, nor by his enemies, nor shall he be moved from the completion of his designs. He is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. (Spurgeon n.d., 315)

David follows this up by revealing to us how the judgments of God defends us and provides the victory.

Psalm 21:8-13

“Your hand will find all your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate you. You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them. You will eliminate their descendants from the earth, And their children from among the sons of mankind. Though they intended evil against You And devised a plot, They will not succeed. For You will make them turn their back; You will take aim at their faces with Your bowstrings. Be exalted, LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.” (NASB 2020)

As we exit a trial or test, we may think the enemy of that moment has been defeated. You never know where the next attack may come from, but God knows. He is the one who finds all of those who would come against us and ultimately has found and judged those who are His enemies.

Those who attack us today, those who attacked David, unless they become believers, they have a sure future ahead of them. It is the same sort of future that the Lord told Moses of for the Egyptian military. It is what is promised to those in the unseen realm who motivate others to attack us today.

Exodus 14:13-14

“Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the LORD that he will provide for you today; for **the Egyptians that you see today you will never, ever see again**. The LORD will fight for you, and you can be still.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

When Moses said that, he was speaking not only the impending temporal judgment the army of Egypt would suffer when the Red Sea would collapse back on them, but he was also referring to the pending judgment eternally as well. The nation would never see them again, in this life or the next after resurrection.

Psalm 21:8-9

“Your hand will find all your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate you. You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them.” (NASB 2020)



These are terrible words...never tolerate slight thoughts of hell, or you will soon have low thoughts of sin. The hell of sinners must be fearful beyond all conception, or such language as the present would not be used. Who would have the Son of God to be his enemy when such an overthrow awaits his foes? (Spurgeon n.d., 316)

Psalm 21:10–13

“You will eliminate their descendants from the earth, And their children from among the sons of mankind. Though they intended evil against You And devised a plot, They will not succeed. For You will make them turn their back; You will take aim at their faces with Your bowstrings. Be exalted, LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.” (NASB 2020)

Those who make themselves enemies of God by attacking His kids have, unless they come to Christ, set into motion a future that is too horrible to contemplate.

As we know from Revelation 21, there will be a New Jerusalem that will be here on the New Earth, but those who have made themselves enemies of God, will not be part of that, And the danger is, they tend to pass this legacy onto their kids as well.

We may not notice what their intentions are today due to the deception they use, but God does indeed see and take measure of what it is they intend to do. As we prayed per Psalm 20 and interceded for others to achieve victory over the enemy, we too will achieve victory as well because God does indeed know what others intend to do to us.

Others may lie about us, lie about our ministry, lie about our intentions and make fun of what we do, but God sees and knows the intent of their hearts.

David is clear about what happens to those who intent evil and plot and scheme against His people, they will not succeed. This is a promise I have claimed more than once since it seems gaslighting these days is how some do business. They create stories and stretch the truth to pull us down and destroy what the Lord is doing, but the word tells us...“they will not succeed.”

Psalm 21:12–13

“For You will make them turn their back; You will take aim at their faces with Your bowstrings. Be exalted, LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.” (NASB 2020)

David sees—and perhaps literally saw—the enemies of God running away on the field of battle, with their back turned against the advancing armies of God. (Guzik 2013, Ps 21:11-12)

We have victory because He is faithful, and the Lord is the one who defends us.

It is in God we rejoice, He has answered our prayers, He has provided the victory, and He has our back. Those who come against us, both physical as well as those in the unseen realm, will be dealt with by God. As a result, we exalt Him and rejoice in His strength and praise Him for His power to save us.

Let's pray.



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