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Psalm 20

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 20.

Topics.

- May God grant you your heart's desire and fulfil all your petitions.
- The LORD saves his anointed and will answer him from heaven.
- The LORD saves with the might of his right hand.
- Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in God.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 20:1-5

To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

May God grant you your Heart's Desire and Fulfil all your Petitions.

- **Psalm 20:1-5:** May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! ²May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! ³May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah* ⁴May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! ⁵May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!

The LORD told Moses that the full name of the God of Jacob is, "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," and that this is was to be His name forever, and the name He is to be remembered by throughout all generations. (Exodus 3:15).

Zion, is the ancient Hebrew name of the eastern-most hill of the city of Jerusalem, lying between the Valley of Kidron and Tyropoeon valley known now as the Temple Mount. It is situated in the Old City. The earliest record of Zion is as a Jebusite stronghold which was captured about 1000 B.C., by King David, who made it the centre of the United Monarchy, and the nucleus of the City of David, as Jerusalem came to be known (2 Sam 5:6-7). As the site of the original repository of the Ark of the Covenant and, in the view of most modern scholars, of the Temple, the hill became the centre of political and cultural life for the ancient Hebrews. The name came to signify the 'Holy Hill' of God (Psalms 2:6). Over time, the name Zion came to be used for the whole of Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:27) and Palestine; daughter of Zion is a term applied to the Jewish people. After the fall of Judaea (A.D.70), Zion became the symbol of the hope that the

Jewish homeland in Palestine would eventually be restored. In the New Testament, the term denotes the heavenly city (Hebrews 12:22) (Revelation 14:1). In biblical times Zion was symbolic of the house or household of God and by extension it later became representative of the Jews and their religion. In Christian belief Zion was symbolic of the place where God lives and is worshipped on earth or in heaven.

Here are some of the most beautiful words of Scripture:

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet 2:6).

This is not only the foundation and revelation of all Scripture, but the eternal plan that God purposed in His divine and eternal mind before the foundation of the world began. It seems at the time of this prayer David is sitting as king (v9) in Jerusalem and praying for himself and the people of his Kingdom, but the prayer by extension could apply to anyone.

David's prayer consists of two sections:

1. firstly, he prays that God will answer the people's prayers in the day of trouble; protect them; help and support them; remember all the goodness they have done in faith; give them their heart's desire; fulfil all their plans and petitions.
2. secondly, he prays that God's people will with joyful shouting over their salvation exalt the name of God. This shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that though we should always thank God for the good temporal things that we do have in this mortal world the primary focus of our praise and worship should be upon the King and Saviour who ascended in glory from the bloodstained cross of Calvary and has redeemed and saved us to eternal life in everlasting glory.

PSALM 20:6

The LORD Saves his Anointed and will Answer Him from Heaven.

- **Psalm 20:6:** Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

The word anointed comes from the Hebrew word (*mashiyach*) and means consecrated, approved of and set apart as a king or priest, or as faithful minister of the Lord and especially applies to the Messiah. The most common method of showing other that a person had been approved of and set apart for ministry was by rubbing them with oil (symbolising the Holy Spirit). David's words, "the LORD saves his anointed" applies to the Lord Jesus Christ, but by extension can apply to all the faithful in Christ since they have all been called and set apart for God's glory and God's Kingdom.

The LORD saves with the might of His right hand: (v6) in the Old Testament the Scripture speak of God saving with the might of His right hand, God's right hand speaks of His great power saving from enemies in battle and from many other perils and troubles that life brings upon us, but God's right hand can also be seen as a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ when it is used in the context of the following Scriptures (there are a multitude of others like them).

- I (David) saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken. (Acts 2:25).
- You have given me (David) the shield of your salvation, and your *right hand* supported me and your gentleness made me great. (Psalm 18:35).
- Now I (David) know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his *right hand*. (Psalm 20:6).

- As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your *right hand* is filled with righteousness. (Psalm 48:10).
- That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your *right hand* and answer us! (Psalm 60:5).
- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things! His *right hand* and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. (Psalm 98:1).

When the Scriptures in the Old Testament talk of God's right hand in the context of righteousness and salvation it can by faith been seen as a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is because men and women who faithfully followed God looked by faith toward the coming of the promised Messiah the Christ who is now the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2).

PSALM 20:7-8

Some Trust in Chariots and Some in Horses, but we Trust in God.

- **Psalm 20:7-8:** Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. ⁹O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

David was a mighty warrior, he fought in battles in which it was common for twenty thousand to be slain on the battle field in one day, he was very conscious of war and death. The words, "Chariots and horses will collapse and fall, but David and all who trust in the LORD will rise and stand upright (v7) does not just refer to David and his armies having victory over their enemies, but also to David and those who fought with him rising up from the grave to eternal life and everlasting glory while only the darkness of the grave awaits his enemies.

Millions worldwide today trust in their fame, jobs, wealth, families, their fitness and money, but all of these will fail, and their end without God is eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction in the lake of fire, but those who trust in the LORD, may experience the same kind of hardships and troubles in this life, but they will have the ultimate victory because Christ will never fail those who trust in him, but will resurrect them to eternal life where happiness and joy dwell forevermore.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
