

THE PSALMS

Series: Selected Psalms Phase 1

Psalm 21: Rejoice in Your God Given Triumphs Psa. 21:1-13

Today's Study: Psalm 21:1-13

1. Delight in Your God Given Benefits Vv. 1-6
2. Demonstrate Your Confidence in God for Future Triumphs Vv. 7-12
3. Devotedness and Acknowledgement of God's Power – The Source of Your Triumphs v. 13

INTRODUCTION

1. Highlights from Psalm 20

(a) Pray for Your Leader Psa. 20:1-4

We have in this account an example of fervent effectual praying, by both David and his people, as they prepared to go into battle.

(1) Here we have the people (Vv. 1-4, 5) presenting their petition on behalf of their king, for his protection while engaged in battle.

- They desired not only David's protection but victory over the enemy.
- The word **trouble** (v. 1) implies that David was besieged and was exposed to difficulties and danger by his enemies.
- Although David was a man of business and a man of war, he was constant to his devotions, he had in his service prophets and priests and other loyal people who faithfully pray for him, yet he did not neglect the necessity to pray for himself!

(2) **"The God of Jacob"** (20:1) or **"The God of Israel"** is referring to the **Protector** of the nation (Israel).

- **". . . the name of the God of Jacob"** (20:1b) . . . **God's name** illustrates all that He is, for example, it portrays His presence, power, faithfulness, mercy, authority, justice, truth, love, etc.
- Matthew Henry notes:
"The more God is trusted the more He is sought. If we trust God we shall seek Him by faithful fervent prayer, and by constant care to approve ourselves to Him in the whole course of our conversations (manner of living ... insert mine)."

(3) The essence of the people's prayer is that God would accept those offerings and supplications made by David (see 20:3) and would now send the desired help from the sanctuary where He resided; that is the help and protection their king needed.

(4) **"May He remember all your offerings And accept your sacrifice"** (20:3 NKJV).

- The word **“offerings”** as used here refers to: *“a sacrificial offering usually bloodless and voluntary.”* It is sometimes referred to as **offering** and sometimes as **oblation**.
 - The word (**offering**) means an offering of any kind or anything that is presented to God, except a blood sacrifice – anything offered as an expression of thankfulness, or with the thought of obtaining a favor.
 - Obviously, **offerings** were made to God by David as he prepared to go to war and the people prayed that God would respond favorably by granting the desires of his (David’s) heart.
 - **“And accept your burnt sacrifice”** (20:3b NKJV).
 - It was a custom in the time of David for kings to offer sacrifice before going to war; . . . it was a way to invoke God’s presence, protection and providence.
 - In this situation, we are referring to **“blood offerings”** (20:3b); the blood of the sacrificial animal was spilt at the altar and the flesh consumed by fire.
- (5) Beloved, a powerful lesson taught in Psa. 20:1-4: **“we approach God, not only by offering which we make, blood or bloodless, but through the one great sacrifice made by the Redeemer on the cross for the sins of the world.”**
- (6) The people continue to pray for their beloved king (see 20:4).
- **Psa. 20:4a** . . . that God would grant all David’s undertakings and noble designs for the public welfare with the success he so earnestly desired.
 - They prayed in faith because they knew that David was a man of God’s own heart and would do what is pleasing and acceptable to Him.
 - It is an established fact that those who made it their business to glorify God may expect that God will grant the desire of their hearts (Psa. 37:4; 91:14; Isa. 58:9; etc.).
 - **Psa. 20:4b** . . . hereby expressing the joy, beauty and benefits of fulfilled goals so greatly anticipated. This statement (Psa. 20:4b), can also be applied to the great desire and purpose of the King of Kings as he went into battle to accomplish our salvation.
- (b) **Promote (Encourage) Your Leader in the LORD Psa. 20:5**
- The prayer of the people (Psa. 20:1-5) is that David’s entreaty for victory would be granted. Placing their trust in God, the people looked forward to celebrating the victory that is assured by God through their king.
- (1) The people continued to maintain their faith that God would intervene to deliver them (Psa. 20:5); there is also strong evidence of the confidence in such victory and such deliverance would fill their hearts with great joy and rejoicing.

- (2) Setting up their banners (20:5b) the people were saying whose they are and also indicating that their total dependence is on God and that their mission was focused on promoting the honor and glory to God!
- (3) In regards to David speaking prophetically of Christ . . . for example see 20:5, . . . the Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible notes:
"This scene points to the Lord Jesus Christ, 'who for the joy was set before Him endured the cross' (Heb. 12:2). Imagine the glorious celebration when He ascended and re-entered heaven, victorious over Satan, sin and the grave. He sat 'down at the right hand of the throne of God' to reign eternally over all."
- (c) **Protection Assured . . . God Preserves His Sanctified Leaders Psa. 20:6.**
- (1) David now speaks and expresses his confident assurance of success and was further encouraged by the overwhelming support of the people.
- (2) Even before going into battle, David was fully assured that he would be victorious over the enemy. Note also that he speaks of **"saves"** (20:6a); he spoke as though it was already realized (Rom. 4:17).
- (3) David was a mighty, valiant warrior and a brilliant strategist, but he did not depend on his own skills for victory. He wisely acknowledged that victory could come only from the LORD!
- (d) **Place Your Confidence in God . . . He is Your Ultimate Source Psa. 20:7-8**
- (1) David and the people placed their trust in Him who is able, the True and Living God (Jer. 10:10-18). Their hope was not in man, military might or any other human or created source . . . but on Him who is above all (Ex. 15:11; Deut. 33:26; 2 Sam. 7:22).
- (2) Matthew Henry notes:
"A believing obedient trust in God and His name is the sure way both to preferment and to establishment, to rise and to stand upright, and this will stand us instead when creature – confidence fail those that depend upon them."
- (e) **Petition Can Be Made Continuously for Your Leader Psa. 20:9**
- (1) Prayer is not inconsistent with the most confident anticipation of success in any undertaking; and confidence of success can only come from fervent prayer.
- (2) David, the king was going to war and he implores the protection of a greater king than himself – the King of all nations, and the ultimate outcome of the war was dependent on Him.
- (3) Barnes notes:
"Never should we look for success unless our undertaking has been preceded by prayer; and when our best preparations have been made, our hope of success is not primarily and mainly in them, but only in God."

2. Introduction to Psalm 21

Psalm 21 is a companion of Psalm 20 and both have a very simple title: **“To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.”** The psalm is classified as a **Praise Psalm** or **Thanksgiving Psalm**. Praise Psalms contain three outstanding features: (a) An introductory call to praise (b) a list of reasons to praise God and (c) a firm commitment to praise the LORD. While scholars vary as to the psalms within this category, the following eleven psalms have been classified as Praise Psalms: 18, 21, 30, 32, 34, 40, 41, 66, 106, 116, 138.

Psalm 21 is characterized by its rejoicing in the victory which they (Israel) experienced over the enemy (see Psalm 20). It (Psalm 21) glorifies in the abundance of God’s help, and it also describes the elimination of the enemy. The composition corresponds to Psa. 20, consisting of two main stanzas (Vv. 1-6 and 7-13) . . . verse 13 is a brief concluding prayer (v. 13).

The following are some highlighted pointers . . . noted by comparing Psa. 20 and 21. The listing is not comprehensive.

PSALM 20	PSALM 21
Anticipate going to war.	Acknowledging and appreciating God’s victories.
Confrontation with the enemy and its challenges . . . a matter of great concern.	Committed to praising God for current and future triumphs.
Daring , devious, God-hating, seemingly indestructible invaders.	Deliverance is of the LORD, the battle is His!
Hope for victory over the enemy . . . greatly appreciated.	Hallelujahs , freely, joyously given for God’s intervention.
Petition passionately presented to the Most High.	Praises overflowing for God’s continued care and protection.
Surrounded by the enemy – who are ready to obliterate.	Saved by the mighty hand of the True and Living God!!
Testing and challenges by the enemy made most forcibly.	Triumphs through God’s intervention and destruction of the enemy.

As noted before, Psalm 20 was a prayer for King David that God would protect him; in Psalm 21 we have thanksgiving for the victory that God bestowed upon him (them). Those whom we have prayed for, we ought to give thanks for and as exemplified in Psalm 20, pray earnestly for one another and our leaders.

3. The Divisions of Psalm 21

Today, we will be discussing three main points . . . the third is a brief concluding prayer.

- (a) Delight in Your God Given Benefits Vv. 1-6.
- (b) Demonstrate Your Confidence in God for Future Triumphs Vv. 7-12.
- (c) Devotedness and Acknowledgement of God's Power . . . The Source of Your Triumphs v. 13.

A. Delight in Your God-Given Benefits Psa. 21:1-6

"David here speaks for himself in the first place, professing that his joy was in God's strength and in his salvation, and not in the strength or success of his armies. He also directs his subjects herein to rejoice with him, and to give God all the glory of the victories he had obtained; and all with an eye to Christ, of whose triumphs over the powers of darkness, David's victories were but shadows." (Matthew Henry)

1. Thanksgiving for God's Goodness (Psa. 21:1).

"The king shall have joy in your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice" (21:1 NKJV)

- (a) Strength of God, the reason to rejoice and be hopeful.
 - (1) We have seen in Psa. 20 the people's earnestness and determination to have their beloved leader safe and secure.
 - (2) The victory that they, David and the people, desired (Psa. 20) was realized and that they were not only in a jubilant state but deeply grateful to God!
- (b) Success give reasons to be jubilant and be thankful.
 - (1) The word **"strength"** (v. 1) . . . implies that all the success referred to in this account (Psa. 20-21) was attributed to God.
 - (2) It should be noted that David publicly acknowledged that the deliverance that they so earnestly desired was solely possible only through God's strength (see Psa. 20:6).
 - It was not by the skillfulness of man; it was not by courageousness or skill of the king as a warrior but it was realized only by the power of God!
 - David, as noted in our text, rejoices because he received the strength of God for the battle and that was all he needed.
 - See Ex. 15:2; Psa. 27:1; 28:7-8; 81:1; etc.
 - **Psa. 28:8 NKJV**
"The LORD is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed."
 - (3) David knew, he appreciated and he acknowledged that he was victorious in all areas of life because his help came from the LORD . . . indeed, likewise, **our help comes from the LORD which made heaven and earth!!**
 - (4) David experienced great success over his adversaries . . . how do we define **success?** Below is one definition for success:
"Success is: obedience to God, empowered by the Spirit of God, motivated by love for God, and directed toward the advancement of His kingdom.

Real success begins by obeying God's command to repent, believing in Jesus Christ, and following Him in all areas of life."

(c) **Salvation** (v. 1b) or **deliverance** over all enemies is from the LORD! (NOTE: 20:1, 5; 21:5, 6).

(1) **"And in Your salvation"** (v. 1b) (Keep in mind we have the people speaking... verses 1-5).

- In the **salvation** or **deliverance** from the adversaries that only You can make possible and in all areas, blessed LORD, and in all areas that You have given the victories . . . **We rejoice!!**
- Such rejoicing is not mere external emotion that wears away but flows from a heart of deep gratitude and continues freely forever!!
- **Barnes notes:** "Salvation, now to us a source of comfort, will be such; and when we once have evidence that God has interposed to save us, it is accompanied with the confident anticipation that this will continue to be the source of our highest joy forever."

(2) David's victories from his enemies has been a means of great joy and celebration! There are two words that distinctly bring out the nature of their celebration as noted in verse 1. Briefly noted:

The following is a quote from Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (POSB).

- **"Joy (KJV) or rejoices (NIV) in the first statement is inner rejoicing. It means to be brightened, cheered or made glad in heart and soul."**
- **"Rejoice (KJV) or joy (NIV) in the second statement is an outward reaction. The word (giyl) means to twirl or spin around. David literally danced for joy because of the major victory God had given him over his enemies."**

2. Testifying of Answered Prayers (21:2).

"You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. (21:2 NKJV).

(a) Heart's desire given with great delight.

(1) As we saw in Psa. 20:4 it was the prayer of the people that God would confer on David according to his wishes . . . the desires of his heart.

- They confided in David to ask within the will of God because he was a man of God's own heart. Such desires would be to the enhancement of God's people and His cause.
- God had granted him according to his heart and fulfilled all his objectives. All that he had wished; all that he had prayed for himself or the people, had been granted.

(2) Go with God and He will go with you!!

Delight in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart! Give Him first place! Sincerely give Him the preeminence in your life!

- God will answer the cry of our hearts if our desires are in accordance with His will (John 15:7).

- When we delight ourselves in God and His will, God Himself places desires within our hearts that sets out to be fulfilled (Phil. 2:13)

Psa. 37:4 Amplified Bible

“Delight yourself also in the LORD and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.”

(b) Heeding and granting the petitions **“And have not withheld the request of his lips”** (v. 2b NKJV).

(1) God did not deny! He did not refuse the requests that were presented! All petitions were fully granted!

(2) David gave thanks to the LORD for granting **all** that he had requested.

- Note carefully that David’s prayer was done verbally!
“By praying aloud, he opened up his heart before the people. This gave them keen insight into David’s heart. As a result, they could pray effectively for him because they knew his specific needs and the exact desires of his heart.” (The Preacher’s Outline Sermon Bible)
- **Beloved, God has been and remains a prayer answering God:**
 - **Moses** (Ex. 15:24-25)
 - **Gideon** (Judges 6:39-40)
 - **Hannah** (1 Sam. 1:27)
 - **Samuel** (1 Sam. 7:9-10)
 - **Solomon** (1 Kings 9:3)
 - **Elijah** (1 Kings 18:37-38)
 - **Hezekiah** (2 Kings 19:19-20)
 - **Jehoshaphat** (2 Chron. 18:31)
 - **The Early Church** (Acts 4:31)
 - **Etc.**

3. Through Challenges to Triumph (Psa. 21:3)

“For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head.” (Psa. 21:3 NKJV).

(a) Preceded and prepared the way for His anointed (21:3a)

Psa. 21:3a KJV: **“For thou preventest with the blessing . . .”**

Psa. 21:3a NKJV: **For You meet him with the blessings . . .”**

(1) Based on the original usage v.3a may be read: **“Thou goest before him, thou dost anticipate him.”**

- The word **“prevent”** as it is used today means: *“keep (something) from happening or arising” . . . in such instance it refers to “hinder, stop or intercept.”*
- The original or archaic usage means: *“(of God) go before (someone) with spiritual guidance and help . . . or “to go before, to anticipate.”*
- The message conveyed here (Psa. 21:3a) is that God had **anticipated** him (David) or his desires. Therefore, God went before him and formulated

the blessings even before it was asked. Beloved, this is a continued blessing that is available to all the people of God (Matt. 6:8, 25-34; etc.).

(2) God has and will always make a way for His beloved people! He will continue to make a way even when there seems to be no way. He works in ways that we cannot see; even when we don't see it, He is there on our behalf!! What an awesome, wonderful God we serve!!

- **Deut. 31:8 Amplified Bible**

"It is the LORD Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you or let you go or forsake you; 'let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit] (depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm."

- See also Ex. 13:21; 14:19; Num. 14:14; **Deut. 1:30**; 2 Sam. 5:24; **Rom. 8:31**; etc.).

(3) God's graciousness and bountiful blessings poured out upon David (21:3) . . . ***God met him with blessings of goodness"*** (21:3).

- The goodness of God was **taken to** David! God brought it to him, more than David chasing these **blessings of goodness . . . *freely and lavishly it was poured out upon Him!***
- It was definitely a fact that God went before David with blessings for which he acknowledged and glorified God (Psa. 21:3). However, there was a time, between when he was anointed to replace King Saul (1 Sam. 16:1-13, NB v. 13) and when he finally sat on the throne (2 Sam. 5:1-5); that it seemed victory would never be realized; it was fifteen years of life-threatening and difficult disheartening situations but God was there all the time!!
 - Beloved, God's goodness and grace came to meet us all the time!! ***Before me, behind me always beside me; No shadow, no valley, where you won't find me; No I am not afraid!!***
 - Think of it this way, while we were sinners He gave His life for us!! He went ahead and made a way for us!! (Isa. 53; Col. 1:12-29; Rom. 5; etc.).

(b) Place of triumph, honor and authority.

"You have set a crown of pure gold upon his head" (Psa. 21:3b).

(1) **Crown** as used here (21:3b) refers to the victory which David had achieved and by which he was made truly a king.

- He was crowned with triumph; he was proven to be king . . . he was a conqueror and indeed a king.
- God had advanced him to the highest honor and most extensive power. The enemy would try to remove his crown and destroy him but he was the LORD'S anointed. David wore the crown both of the throne of Israel – God's special nation – and the crown of victory.

(2) The following is a quote from POSB:

“David had called upon the LORD to give him victory based on God’s anointing of him as king (20:6). Through delivering him from his enemies the LORD had confirmed this anointing and exalted David as His chosen leader of Israel.

David’s exaltation by God points to the glorifying of Jesus Christ as King of Kings. It also testifies to the fact that the believers will reign with Christ in His kingdom. See Luke 22:28-29; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 22:5.”

4. **Thoroughness of God’s Care and Exaltation** (Psa. 21:4-5).

(a) Endurance granted with goodness in abundance (Psa. 21:4).

“He asked life from You, and You gave it to him – Length of days forever and ever.” (21:4 NKJV)

(1) David went into battle praying that God would preserve his life (Psa. 20) and now he celebrated the answer to that prayer. In the life-and-death danger of the battle, David was given life and length of days.

(2) ***He asked life from you . . .*** (21:4). A similar expression occurs in **Psa. 61:5-7**.

- The thought conveyed in both instances (Psa. 21:4 and 61:5-7) is that there had been a prayer for life, as if his life was in danger.

- **One scholar notes:**

“While the gift of life . . . forever and ever might have implied to Old Testament reader a hyperbole or an allusion to the endless dynasty promised to David in 2 Sam. 7:16, the New Testament has filled in the picture firmly with the figure of the ultimate king, the Messiah, for whom the whole stanza is true without exaggeration.”

- **Matthew Henry notes:**

“When he went forth upon a perilous expedition he asked for his life of thee, which he then put into his hand, and thou not only gavest him that, but withal gavest him length of days for ever and ever, didst not only prolong his life far beyond his expectation, but didst assure him of a blessed immortality in a future state and the continuance of his kingdom in the Messiah that should come of his lions.”

(3) The magnitude, majesty and many-faceted blessings of God . . . ***“Length of days forever and ever.”***

- Here we are witnesses of the fact that God’s gifts to us often exceeds our expectations and hopes, which shows us how rich God is in mercy to those who call upon Him!
- David sought life for himself and in addition God granted the assurance that he should live in his descendants to all generations.
- The message conveyed here is that there would be an indefinite continuation of his lineage. His posterity would occupy his reign and there would be no end to his reign.

- Even when David rested in the grave, he would live through the lives of his descendants who would sit on his throne. The eternal aspect of his throne would be established forever in Jesus Christ (noted before); who will occupy David's throne throughout eternity (**2 Sam. 7:12-16**; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Rev. 11:15).
- (b) Exaltation and honor comes from God (Psa. 21:5).
"His glory is great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon him" (21:5 NKJV)
- (1) Human factor was not the underlying element of David's victory!
- David knew the exaltation that came to kings and victors in battle; but here he declared that this **glory**, this **honor**, this **majesty** came from God and not from himself (21:5).
 - David's triumph over his enemies was because of God's intervention which was bestowed upon him (21:5).
 - As observed in previous chapter, David exercised great faith that he and his army would be victorious in the armed conflict (Psa. 20:8).
 - As noted before, God indeed exalted David and elevated him above the other kings . . . indeed, promotion comes from the LORD (Psa. 75:6-7).
- (2) Heavenly deliverance distinctively and freely granted!
- Definitely, it was God who intervened and saved David!
 - Man knows that he is no greater than the fact that he has God as his deliverer!
- (3) Honor and majesty bestowed lavishly by God!!
- Such grand and exalted promotion was done when God made him king.
 - The victories and triumphs which God gave him were like a glowing glistening crown.
 - In the perpetuity of his (David's) reign (Psa. 21:4) even so we, (believers), the ransom children of God, have been assured of eternal life . . . honor and majesty have been laid on them!! (John 3:16, 36a; 4:14, 36; 5:24; etc.).
- (4) Highly favored, abundantly blessed solely by God's grace!
- The **honor** and **majesty** laid upon him because he was vindicated by God.
 - The **honor** and **majesty** has been demonstrated in the manner in which his vindication was accomplished.
 - The **honor** and **majesty** made evident in his adoption into the family of God.
 - The **honor** and **majesty** is established in the rank and dignity which he occupies as a child of God.
 - The **honor** and **majesty** is rooted and grounded in the hope of immortal blessedness beyond the grave.

5. **Transcendent Creator's Favor** (Psa. 21:6).

"For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence" (21:6 NKJV).

(a) Eternally, he will be a blessing! (21:6a)

(1) **"... made him most blessed forever"** . . . as stated in our translation, it is commonly understood to mean that God made him (David) **happy** or **prosperous**.

(2) The original (Hebrew) is literally saying, **that God made him a blessing to mankind or to the world; or that He had made him (David) to be a source of blessing to others.**

- Blessing would abound to others through his reign; blessings through the reigns of those who would succeed him in the throne; blessings would be imparted to men forever.
- **"... forever..."** the use of **"forever"** has been inspired by the Spirit and was intended to refer to the eternal blessings which would descend on mankind through the Messiah, the distinguished descendant of David.
 - It was prophesied that the Messiah would be a descendant of David: 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 11:1-5; **Jer. 23:5-6.**
 - This was fulfilled: Matt. 1:1, 18-25; Luke 1:26-38; **Heb. 1:1-7, NB Vv. 5-6.**

(b) Exceptionally blessed and highly favored (21:6b).

(1) David was bubbling, his cup was full and running over with joy! He was blessed with God's protection, the promises of continued blessings and the abiding presence of God, it's no wonder he was happy, to the highest degree!!

(2) The KJV used **"countenance"** (21:6b) which is also **God's presence** . . . as translated in the NKJV and other translations.

- This we do know that David was a dedicated worshipper, it was his delight to be in the presence of God (Psa. 27:4; 122:1). Note for example that immediately after God had made known His covenant to David, he went into the sanctuary to express his heartfelt gratitude (2 Sam. 7:18).
- David Guzik notes:
*"David proclaimed that he was **most blessed forever**, but it was the **presence** of God than with the crown of royalty or victory."*

B. Demonstrate Your Confidence in God for Future Triumphs Psa. 21:7-12.

"The second section of the psalm anticipates future victories for king David. These are credited to God, as the one who 'swallows up' enemies of His chosen people. As part of this celebration, Scripture reminds us that following in the sinful footsteps of our ancestors is no excuse. Those who continue the sins of their parents can expect to face God's judgment. This passage also uses a vivid illustration of how David's enemies will flee him. They will respond as drastically as would someone having a drawn bow pointed

directly into their face. This is the depth of faith the people express in God's power and plans." (www.bibleref.com).

1. **Established Because of His Faith in God** (Psa. 21:7)

"For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved" (21:7 NKJV).

(a) Faith in the Most High, the foundation of his (David's) blessings.

"For the king trust in the LORD . . ." (21:7a NKJV).

(1) David's blessings were realized because of his un-moveable faith in God! It is that firm faith in God that motivates us to continue seeking Him (Heb. 11:6).

(2) Note a quote from Life Application Study Bible:

"Because David trusted in God, God would not let him stumble (be removed from the throne). When we trust in God, we have permanence and stability. We may lose a great deal – families, jobs, material possessions – but we cannot be shaken from God's favor. He will be our foundation of solid rock. He will never leave or desert us."

(b) Favor guaranteed to the faithfully committed.

"And through the mercy of the Most High . . ." (21:7b NKJV)

(1) *" . . . the Most High . . ."* is a title that emphasizes the **transcendence of God**, (Gen. 14:18-20) . . . this has been noted in other lessons.

- The transcendence of God means that **God is outside of humanity's full experience, perception or grasp. He exists above and independent of all that He created**
- See Psa. 95:3-4; 97:9; Isa. 40:22; 55:8-9; Acts 17:24; Rom. 11:33-36; etc.

(2) David was experiencing the favor of Him who is highly exalted **above all** – He is the most exalted Being in the entire universe! (Ex. 15:11; etc.) . . . and who God bless no man curse (Num. 23:8-30, NB v. 8; etc.).

- David had already experience God's favor in so many ways and he continued looking to God for His continued favor and was confident he would never be shaken in his functioning and he would never be disappointed.
- Beloved, David made it known of his complete trust in the **mercy** of God, and that it would continue to sustain him in the future. Such un-moveable faith is exemplary for **all believers!**

(c) Firmly established, irrespective of any situation that may arise.

" . . . he shall not be moved" (21:7b)

(1) *" . . . not be moved"* . . . the result of David trusting God is **stability!** The thought here is that he shall be firmly established.

- His throne would be secured; he himself would live a life of integrity, purity and prosperity; and the promises which have been so graciously made to him and which extend far into the future would all be accomplished.

- The lesson taught here is: *irrespective of how firm or prosperous our set goals are succeeding, the continuation of our prosperity depends entirely on the **mercy** or the favor of the Most High.*

(2) Matthew Henry notes:

“. . . The mercy of the Most High (the divine goodness, power and dominion) is enough to secure our happiness, and therefore our trust in that mercy should be enough to silence all our fears. God being at Christ’s right hand in His sufferings (Psa. 16:8) and He being at God’s right hand in glory (Rom. 8:34 . . . insert mine), we may be sure He shall not, He cannot, but continues ever.”:

2. **Enemies of God Will Be defeated** (Psa. 21:8-12)

(a) **Evading God is futile** (Psa. 21:8)

“Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You.” (21:8 NKJV)

NOTE: For today’s discussion I am using three main points; however, there are two main divisions or stanzas in this psalm: (a) Vv. 1-7 (b) Vv. 8-13. For my divisions see the introduction of this lesson (pages 1 and 4).

Description of the Enemy!

(1) Reference here (21:8) is being made to the enemies of David.

- They hated David because God had set him apart for Himself.
- Jesus Christ was also hated because, His opposers hated light and Jesus Christ is the Light of the world (**John 3:19**; Matt. 6:23; John 1:4; 2 Cor. 4:6; etc.)
- The reality is that men love darkness because their deeds are evil: **John 3:19**; Matt. 6:23; John 1:5; Rom. 13: 2; etc.)

(2) Both David and Jesus Christ were hated without any just cause, and in both cases God was hated (John 15:23, 25).

(3) There are too many believers who do not know who is their enemy!

(Note a few references with discussion)

- Stop fighting one another, know who is your arch enemy! (Eph. 6:12)
- Our weapons of warfare are not carnal (2 Cor. 10:4).
- The real enemy is Satan the accuser, etc. of the believers (1 Peter 5:8, 9)
- Satan is one who is determined to destroy (John 10:10)
- We have Christ within who is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4); it is our duty to resist him (James 4:7)
- Beloved, with Christ we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37; 2 Cor. 2:14).

Discovery of the Enemy, Even When Artfully Disguised!

- (1) “. . . will find all Your enemies . . . ”(21:8); the psalmist looks forward to the complete and final triumph of God over all His enemies.
- David anticipated such triumph over future enemies based on the victories he experienced over his enemies . . . definitely, God is able and will bring it to pass!
 - Despite the enemies’ efforts to conceal themselves, or any efforts made to avoid being conquered, they shall **all** be found out and be overcome.
 - Although artfully distinguished by the pretension and profession of friendship; they may intermingle with the genuine people of God but they shall be identified.
 - There is no way of escaping God’s avenging eyes (Job 34:21; Heb. 4:12-13); there is no going out of His reach (see Psa. 139; etc.) rocks and mountains will be no better shelter than the fig leaves were to Adam and Eve.
 - Man continues to habitually sin and thinks he will escape . . . so many warnings in the Word of God, for example Isa. 28, note v. 20; etc.
- (2) All the enemies of God will be found and judged!
- A quote from POSB:
“No enemy is beyond Yahweh’s reach! God’s diligent hand would find – discover and dispose of – every one of them (v.8a). His right hand (omnipotent power) would capture and defeat them.”
 - Job 34:22NKJV
“There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”

(b) End of the wicked is certain (Psa. 21:9)

“You shall make them a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And fire shall devour them” (21:9 NKJV).

(1) Catastrophic end of the wicked (21:9a).

- The wicked believes that he will never be held accountable (Psa. 10, NB Vv. 3-6, 11) but his day of accountability is coming (Mal. 4:1; Matt. 3:12; 1 Thess. 5:3).
- ***“You shall make them a fiery oven . . .”*** (21:9a) . . . or You shall consume or destroy them, as if they were burned in an oven. We may also translate as: **they will burn, as if they were a flaming oven . . . that is, they will be completely consumed!**
- The Hebrew word for **“oven”** (21:9) means either *“an oven”* or *“a furnace.”*
 - Translated as *“furnace”* or *“furnaces”* in Gen. 15:17; Neh. 3:11; 12:38; Isa. 21:9; etc.
 - Translated as *“oven”* or *“ovens”* in Ex. 8:3; Lev. 2:4; 7:9; 11:35; etc.

- The meaning conveyed in Psa. 21:9 is that the wicked would be consumed or destroyed as if they were burning ovens; as if they were set on fire, burned up.
- (2) Their consummation or complete destruction is repeated in the other two clauses of this verse (21:9).
- **“The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath.”** (v. 9b NKJV)
 - **“And the fire shall devour them.”** (v. 9c NKJV)
 - The connection between God’s **“anger”** and **“fire”** has been noted throughout Scriptures: Psa. 21:9; 78:21, 63; 89:46; 97:3; etc.
- (3) David was assured, firmly fixed in his faith and publicly expressed his confidence that God would judge His enemies, and he made it known in the strongest manner – even that God would also judge the posterity of those who fight against Him.
- (4) Spurgeon notes:
- *“We pity the lost for they are men. but we cannot pity them as enemies of Christ.”*
 - **“The fire shall devour them”** Spurgeon also noted: *“Those that might have had Christ to rule and save them, but rejected Him, and fought against Him, even the remembrance of that will be enough to make them to eternity a fiery oven to themselves.”*
- (5) The wicked will experience the wrath of God (Psa. 21:9). There are instances where the wrath of God is illustrated under the representation of fire; for example: Deut. 4:24; 32:22; Psa. 18:8; Matt. 13:42; Mark 9:44; 2 Thess. 1:8; etc.
- (c) **Evil lifestyle, its consequences** (Psa. 21:10)
- “Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men.”* (21:10 NKJV)

NOTE: *You may have observed that verses 8-12 could be combined and discussed in that combined format. I will, however, continue to separate each verse and make **brief** comments.*

- (1) We are observing here, the far-reaching and adverse effects of the evil lifestyle of the wicked (**21:10a**).
- **“Their fruit”** (KJV) . . . is making reference to **“Their Offspring”** (NKJV) or their children; their posterity.
 - It is an established fact that **fruit** refers to that which the tree produces and in this instance, it refers to the children produced by the parents.
 - See this usage in Gen. 30:2; Ex. 21:22; Deut. 28:4, 11, 18; Psa. 127:3; etc.

- The message here is that the wicked would be entirely cut off from the earth. The wicked will ultimately be destroyed, and God will obtain a complete triumph over them; in other words: **the kingdom of righteousness shall be completely established.**
- (2) Despite the evil that is seen today, God is still in control, His will, will be done, truth and justice will triumph!!
- The wicked will be removed out of the way!!
 - All who oppose God and His cause shall be destroyed!!
 - God will remove and punish the wicked, making it evidently clear that He is a Friend of all that is true, good and right!! **A Great Day is Coming!!**
- (3) **NOTED BRIEFLY:** As seen in our text, there is a distinct contrast between David and the wicked.
- God guaranteed that even after David's death his descendants will continue to flourish (Psa. 21:3-6).
 - David's enemies will have no descendants (Psa. 21:10).
 - The wicked will have no posterity, no remembrance of them.
 - Their offspring will also be judged because they walk in the evil way of their fathers.
 - Many of them die before they conceive children, therefore their seed perishes with them.
- (d) **Error of the wicked reveals his folly (21:11)**
"For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot which they are not able to perform." (21:11 NKJV)
- (1) It is interesting to observe how the wicked becomes entangled, becomes frustrated because of the impossibility to carry out that which they thought was methodically planned but was a total disaster or their evil boomeranged . . . one example, see Psa.7, NB Vv. 14-16.
- (2) As observed in our text, the wicked formed a plan to bring evil upon God and His cause (21:11); as the fowler carefully lays out his traps to take wild beasts.
- They had put in place what they didn't have the power to accomplish. Their purpose was plain; their guilt was very much obvious; but they were unable to carry out what they intended.
 - Barnes notes:
"If all the devices and desires of the wicked were accomplished, righteousness would soon cease in the earth, religion and virtue would come to an end, and even God would cease to occupy the throne."
- (3) The established fact is: **"Our God reigns!!" He is above ALL!! There is none above Him!! (Exodus 15:11; etc.)**
- (e) **Entangled by their evil challenge – doom is certain!! (21:12)**

“Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces.” (21:12 NKJV).

(1) The word **“therefore”** in this case means **“for.”** (21:12)

- The statement in this verse (v. 12) connects with the previous verse (v. 11) . . . noting that the wicked would **not** be able to **“perform”** (v. 11) or carry out their well-laid plan of action because God would **make them turn their back; that is, God would vanquish them!**
- They were going forward in the execution of their purposes, but God would intervene and turn them back or compel them to retreat.

(2) Note another powerful thought from Barnes:

“Truth meets error boldly, face to face and is not afraid of a fair fight (Emphasis mine). *In every such conflict error will ultimately yield; and whenever the wicked come openly into conflict with God, they must be compelled to turn and flee.”*

(3) David knew and he presented God as a mighty and highly skilled warrior (Psa. 21:12). This fact was evident throughout his life, for example see Psa. 24:8.

- God’s drawn bow (Psa. 21:12) represents a most powerful reminder to David’s enemies as to who they are really opposing (Ex. 15:11; Psa. 89:6; Isa. 40:18; etc.). The drawn bow (21:12) aiming directly in the enemies’ face was a humiliating and deterrent factor for David’s enemies.
- Historically, David was always conscious that he was never alone on the battle field (1 Sam. 17, NB Vv. 37, 45-47) or daily as he goes about life’s transactions (Psa. 24; 27; etc.).
 - **Ex. 14:14 Amp. Bible**
“The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest.”
 - See also Ex. 23:27; 2 Sam. 5:24; 2 Chron. 20:29; 32:8; etc.

C. Devotedness and Acknowledgement of God’s Power –the Source of Your Triumphs Psa. 21:13.

“Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.” (21:13 NKJV).

1. **Heavenly Father’s Exaltation . . . None Like Him!** (Psa. 21:13a)

- (a) It was David’s deepest desire that God would be exalted over all His enemies; or that His own strength might so manifestly be expressed that He would be exalted as He should!
- (b) The exaltation of God is the ultimate and chief desire of all sanctified saints of God, that results in the declaration that He is above everything and everyone and due honor to be given to Him!!

(c) Note the following quotes:

(1) **Adam Clarke:**

“Exalt thyself, O LORD – thy creatures cannot exalt thee.”

(2) **Matthew Henry:**

“Hereby He would exalt Himself and glorify His own name. ‘We have but little strength, and are not so active for thee as we should be, which is our shame; LORD, take the work into thy own hands, do it, without us and it will be thy glory.’”

2. Hallelujahs Will Resoundly Go Forth (Psa. 21:13b)

(a) *“We will sing and praise Your power” (21:13b NKJV)*

(1) David is saying: as the result of You being exalted to proper honor, we will unite in celebrating thy glory and thy power (Compare Rev. 7:10-12; 12:10; 19:1-3).

(2) This will be the result of all the triumphs which God will achieve in the world, that all of God’s people the world over will gather around His throne and sing and praise Him!!

(b) Note the following quotes:

(1) **Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible (POSB)**

“Israel vowed to sing the praises of the LORD’S power; the power of the one who had delivered them and who had delivered them and who would continue to deliver them from all their enemies.”

(2) **Barnes:**

“The thought in the psalm is that God will ultimately triumph over all His foes, and that this triumph will be followed by universal rejoicing and praise. Come that blessed day!”

(3) **David Guzik**

“The psalm end is consistent with the tone throughout. It is full of praise to God for the blessings of victory, deliverance, and answered prayer. This attitude should always be among the people of God.”

The Song: “Be Exalted O God”

Partial Quote:

I will give thanks to Thee
 O Lord, among the people
 I will sing praise to Thee
 Among the nations
 For Thy steadfast love is great
 It is great to the Heavens
 And Thy faithfulness
 Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted, O God
 Above the heavens
 Let Thy glory be over all the Earth

Psa. 145:1-3 NKJV

“I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.”

Isaiah 25:1 NKJV

O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”

DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE, STUDY AND OBEY IT!

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be completely, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

PSALM 21

Review Questions

1. What are the three outstanding features of Praise Psalms?

2. What does the word “**strength**” as used in Psa. 21:1a implies?

3. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“**Success** is obedience to God, empowered by the Spirit of God, motivated by the Spirit of God, motivated by love for God and _____.”

- (a) always focused solely upon one’s personal interest.
 - (b) directed toward the advancement of His kingdom.
 - (c) ignoring sincerity and commitment to God’s cause.
 - (d) directed toward the advancement of one’s wealth.
4. (a) What was the reason for David’s victories (example Psalms 20 & 21). (b) What two distinct words demonstrate the nature of their rejoicing (Psa. 21:1). Briefly explain?

5. In regards to the word **“prevent”** (Psa. 21:3) . . . (a) what does the word means as it is used generally today? (b) What does it mean as it was used in the Hebrew text?

6. Explain the usage of **“crown”** as used in Psa. 21:3b.

7. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer:
“Length of days for ever and ever” (Psa. 21:4), means that David would never experience physical death.

8. Complete by choosing the correct answer:
 “David knew the exaltation that came to kings and victors in battle; but here he declared that this **“glory,”** this **“honor,”** this **“majesty”** _____ (Psa. 21:5).

- (a) came by his powerful army and experience.
- (b) came because the enemies feared his might.
- (c) came because of his strategy and courage.
- (d) came from God and not from himself.

9. “. . . **made him most blessed forever**” (Psa. 21:6a) . . . explain this statement base on the Hebrew usage.

10. Briefly note three important pointers noted when we discussed (Psa. 21:7).

11. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“No enemy is beyond Yahweh’s reach! God’s diligent hand would – discover and dispose of – every one of them (v. 8a), His right hand _____.” (POSB)

- (a) protect, care and nurture them.
- (b) would capture and defeat them.
- (c) would capture and set free.
- (d) defend, strengthen and made powerful.

12. Complete the following:

“Those that might have had (a) _____ to rule and (b) _____ them, but (c) _____ Him and (d) _____ against Him, even the (e) _____ of that will be enough to make them to (f) _____ a (g) _____ oven to (h) _____.”

13. Briefly explain the message communicated in Psa. 21:10.

14. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.

“The wicked formulated plans against God and His cause that they could not accomplish. (Psa. 21:11)

15. Complete the following:

“Truth meets (a) _____ boldly, (b) _____ to face and is not (c) _____ of a fair fight. In every such (d) _____ error will ultimately (e) _____; and whenever the (f) _____ come openly into (g) _____ with God; they must be (h) _____ to turn and (i) _____.” (Barnes)