

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE - 5.26.2024

PSALM 20 - WE TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD

I. INTRODUCTION

Psalm 20:1-9

1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

2 May he send you help from the sanctuary

and give you support from Zion!

3 May he remember all your offerings

and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah*

4 May he grant you your heart's desire

and fulfill all your plans!

5 May we shout for joy over your salvation,

and in the name of our God set up our banners!

May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

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.

7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses,

but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

8 They collapse and fall,

but we rise and stand upright.

9 O Lord, save the king!

May he answer us when we call.

- This psalm is classified as a royal psalm.
- This psalm is fascinating in that, though it is written by David, he is not the one offering up the prayer for the king.
- v1 “May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!”
- Who is the “you?”
- The answer is found in v6, “Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed.”
- The “you” is the king. Prayers are being made on his behalf.
- The prayer is being offered by the king’s subjects.
- They are praying for God’s blessing, God’s protection, and God’s salvation upon his anointed king who leads them.
- The Psalm begins and ends with a petition for the Lord, to answer his anointed king in the day of trouble, and to answer his people when they call.

STRUCTURE OF PSALM 20

- In v1-5 we have the congregation praying for the king.
- It’s in the form of a wish-prayer-blessing.
- Take note of the pronoun changes in the psalm.
- The pronoun shifts to 1st person singular, “I” in v6.
- One person responds expressing confidence in the Lord’s salvation.
- Who is responding? Maybe the priest, maybe the king sings this response.

- In v7-9, the pronouns shift back to “we”.
- The congregation is lifting their voice again in song, this time resounding with the same confidence that is sung in v6.
- The psalm concludes with a confident prayer for God to save the king and confidence that God will answer the prayers of his people.
- The congregation presents their prayers, a singular voice responds with confidence and assurance that God will indeed save his anointed, and the congregation comes in again with words of their own expressing confidence and assurance in God.

- The people know that their destiny is bound up with the king’s destiny.
- His success is their success.
- His victory is their victory.
- His salvation is their salvation.

- What’s true of this psalm for David, God’s anointed king of Israel, is true of David’s greater Son, the Lord’s Messiah, King Jesus.
- As we look back on this ancient psalm we will have confidence and assurance on what it points forward to—Christ’s salvation, triumph and victory.
- His salvation is our salvation!
- His victory is our victory!
- Our eternal destiny is bound up with His!

II. PRAYERS FOR THE KING

- As king, David would go to war on behalf of his people.
- He often pleaded with God, pouring out his heart before the Lord, crying out for God’s deliverance.
- And the people know that their king is praying to Yahweh.
- They know he is asking for God’s salvation and deliverance.

- They want God to answer his prayers and for the Lord to do battle on their behalf through their king.
- Their petition in this psalm is presented as a tenfold wish-prayer-blessing.
 - For God to answer the king when he prays.
 - For God's protection over him, invoking his name.
 - For divine assistance and support from God's temple.
 - For God to accept his offerings and sacrifices, that they be pleasing in God's sight.
 - For God to grant all that the king's heart desires and fulfill all of his plans and petitions.
 - For God to save the king!
- For Israel, when faced with an impending threat from surrounding enemies, they know that their salvation is bound up with their king, who represents them, who goes out to war for them.
 - And they know that if their king does not succeed, if God does not answer his prayers, then all hope is lost.
 - And so they are praying to God on behalf of their king.
 - Because as goes the king, so go the people.
- Israel at war with the Philistines - 2 Samuel 21.
 - The king is the lamp of Israel, if he is extinguished, all of Israel will be plunged into darkness.
 - What happens to the king, happens to his people.
 - The people know that if God saves his anointed king in the day of trouble, they too will be saved.
 - Everything about their future is linked to the king's success.
 - V5, May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!
 - They anticipate the king's victory and salvation. If God will save the king, they will be saved also.
- It's not hard to see the gospel connection in Christ, David's greater son.
 - Our salvation is bound up with Christ's salvation.
 - Our destiny is bound with Christ's!
 - His resurrection is our resurrection. His triumph is our triumph.
 - He has gone to war for us. He faced the enemy on our behalf, and triumphed!
 - The very essence of our Christian faith is salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
 - Our enemies were formidable, but Christ, our representative, acted on our behalf, went to war for us, stepped into the arena of battle and conquered!
 - He triumphed over his enemies not by allowing his enemies to overcome him on the cross.
 - His sacrifice reconciled us to God, redeemed us, ransomed us, rescued us, his righteousness was imputed to us, and we can now rejoice and celebrate in the joy of our salvation, Christ has won!
 - Our eternal destiny is bound up with our King!

III. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S SALVATION

- Now here is the pivot in the psalm.
- A singular voice rises up in the midst of the congregation and says, V6 "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."

- David had confidence that the Lord will answer him and save him, because of the unconditional promise God made to him about his royal descendent.
 - 2 Samuel 7, God establishes his covenant.
 - Psalm 2, anticipates the overthrow of all of God's enemies through Messiah and his everlasting reign.
 - Not only that, David knows the promises that go all the way back to the garden. Gen. 3:15 the promised seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent.
 - Genesis 12, the blessing of Abraham's descendent, through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed.
 - Gen 49, the blessing upon Judah, that the scepter will never depart from Judah, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
 - And David sees the fulfillment of those promises in the King that would come from his line.
 - David is confident that because of all this, Yahweh will use the "saving might of his right hand" to deliver him.
 - God's promises will not fail, they will not fall to the ground.
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- As believers, we should also be able to say, *"Now I know that the Lord saves..."*
 - We should be able to express with confidence that the Lord saves.
 - 2 Timothy 1:12 But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
 - Many believers waver in their confidence and assurance when they are no longer exclusively trusting and resting in Christ's victory.
 - Notice how David writes, "he will answer him from his holy heaven..."
 - When we needed salvation, God's answer came from heaven. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:15)
 - God rescued us with the saving might of his right hand through Jesus Christ.
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- V7-8 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. 8 They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.
 - Israel's enemies, they are trusting in their military might and because that's what they're trusting in, they will collapse and fall.
 - "But not us! We trust in the name of Yahweh, our God! And because of that, we will rise and stand firm!"
 - What a powerful declaration of confidence because their trust is in God!
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- Deut 17, even before there was a king in Israel, God commanded that the king must not acquire many horses for himself, or go back to Egypt to acquire many horses.
 - His trust must not be in military might.
 - The king was to devote himself to the Lord and to God's law.
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- Psalm 1, the king does not seek counsel from the wicked, from sinners, from those who scoff at God's law, but delights in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.
 - Those who trust in worldly things, will delight in worldly counsel rather than God's Word. And that will be their downfall.
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- What are you trusting in for your salvation?
 - Is it your good deeds, obedience, goodness, religion, tradition, generosity, or morality?
 - None of those things can save ultimately and bring you the salvation you need.

- God's word reminds us that all of these things give us false hope and false assurance.
 - Psalm 33:16-17 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. 17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.
 - Psalm 146:3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
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- We will trust in the name of the Lord our God.
 - God's name is his character. The greatest revelation of God's character is Jesus.
 - Through him, God has made known to us the way of salvation.
 - And all who place their trust in him, will find him to be a strong Deliverer and Savior.
 - This psalm finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.
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- For the people of God in David's time, they were looking forward to what God would accomplish through their king.
 - We are now looking back to what God accomplished through our King —Jesus!
 - And King Jesus does not need our prayers.
 - He cried out to His Father in his day of trouble and the Lord answered his prayers, sending him support, sustaining and strengthening him.
 - He waged warfare against the Serpent and crushed him through his death.
 - The Lord remembered his offering and his sacrifice was accepted.
 - And Jesus rose in triumph and victory from the grave, assuring that all those who trust in him will rise again, experiencing the power and life of his resurrection, and stand upright on that Day.
 - And now, the people of God, who have trusted in Christ, joyously celebrate God's salvation.
 - God saved the King, and the King now saves us!
 - His success is our success.
 - His victory is our victory.
 - His salvation is our salvation.
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- This psalm is a summons to prayer. In particular, a summons to pray for those who are in positions of authority over us.
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-3 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.
 - Pray that they govern in righteousness and for righteous people to come into political office.
 - Pray that they administer justice, pursue peace, seek out godly wisdom, and advance righteous causes.
 - We pray for this so that the gospel will flourish and advance freely and without hindrance.
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- Remember that Christ our King is interceding for us.
 - John 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
 - Before he died on the cross, Jesus was praying for us!
 - Hebrews 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
 - "He always lives to make intercession" for us!
 - He stands and pleads before the Father on our behalf, He is our Advocate, he is our access and confidence to draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need (Heb. 4:16).

- Not one single petition for his church, not a single petition for his people will fall to the ground.
- Lastly, we must place our unwavering trust and confidence in Christ alone.
- Where is Christ now? He sits at the right hand of the God Almighty.
- His name is above every name.
- He is reigning in victory, a victory already fought for and won.
- So that we could sing with confidence and rejoice in our salvation.
- We trust in the name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Savior.
- We have no confidence in ourselves. We know our weakness, our guilt before God, and our sin.
- Our confidence rests exclusively in Christ!
- His victory is our victory.
- His salvation is our salvation.
- Some trust in chariots, some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God!

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?