

## **Psalms 20,21**

**Psalms 21:1,2 The king shall have joy in Your strength O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips.**

There are three parties involved in these two Psalms and they are God, the king, and the people. The people pray to God for the king and then celebrate the victories that are won.

**Psalms 20** The prayers offered on behalf of the king are requests for blessing. Specifically, they asked that the Lord would answer the king in the day of trouble, defend him, send help from the sanctuary, strengthen him out of Zion, remember all his offerings, accept his burnt offerings, grant all his heart's desires, fulfill all his purposes, and all of his petitions. These requests just about cover it all. If you were able to make a list of how you would like others to pray for you then this Psalm has plenty of good ideas. In fact, it might serve as a great Golden Rule psalm. We would all be served well to pray these blessings toward others, is there a better gift that we could give?

These requests merge into an assurance of God's response. The people are more than confident that God will save His anointed, that He will answer from His holy heaven and with the strength of His right hand. The people contrast themselves with those who trust in horses or chariots, how much better to remember the name of the Lord our God. The final cry, "Save Lord! may the king answer us when we call.

**Psalms 21** This seems to be a follow up to the previous Psalm. The requests made on behalf of the king have been granted. Instead of asking and seeking these blessings from God, the blessings that have been received are celebrated. "The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips."

The great thing is that when blessings are sought from the Lord, He is not limited to just giving what was specifically requested. Our imagination is not capable of comprehending God's capacity for grace and blessing. Additional blessings enumerated include: the blessings of goodness, a crown of pure gold upon his head, life and length of days, great glory,

honor and majesty, most blessed forever, exceedingly glad with Your presence, and by the mercy of the Most High, he shall not be moved. The Golden Rule prayer reaped benefits far beyond what was requested. Lesson: as good as our hopes for another might be, God's goodwill goes much further. His capacity to love and to give is just beyond us.

In the final section of the Psalm the people anticipate further experience of blessing. The blessing of the king means the rebuke and frustration of any and all who oppose him. This is the reality attached to those who possess the blessing. You don't want to find yourself in opposition to the blessed. When Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses over his marriage and claimed authority to call him out on it, the Lord heard what they were saying and said, "If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?" So also, we do not want to be unforgiving in opposition to our forgiving God. Whatever God is doing, don't get in the way.