

Psalm 21: Praise for Victory

Questions for Discussion

- What events in our Lord's life do Psalms 20-21 anticipate?
- What marks the paragraph changes in Psalm 21?
- What emotion does the king feel in vv. 1-6, and why?
- How does the temporal focus change from 21:1-6 to 21:8-12?
- How does v. 7 mark this shift?
- What two references (one historical, one prophetic) are in v. 9?
- What does v. 12 describe?
- Who is speaking in v. 13?

Psalms 20-21 and David's History

2 Samuel

11:1, David sends army to Rabbah of Ammon

11:2-27, David's sin with Bathsheba

12:1-12, Nathan's rebuke: "9 thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, ... and hast slain him with the sword of the children of **Ammon**. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house..."

12:13-25, David repents, first child dies, Solomon born

12:27-28, Joab summons David to Rabbah of **Ammon**

12:29-31, David conquers Rabbah: "30 And he took **their king's crown** from off his head, the weight whereof was a **talent of gold** with the precious stones: and it was **set on David's head**. ... 31 And he brought forth the people that *were* therein, ... and made them pass **through the brickkiln**: ..."

Psalms

51 (David's repentance)

32 (Rejoicing in forgiveness)

20:1 The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

21:3 **thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.**

21:9 Thou shalt make them as **a fiery oven** in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the **fire** shall devour them.

Psalm 20—Request

20:1 The LORD **hear** thee in the day of trouble;
the name of the God of Jacob **defend** thee;
2 **Send** thee help from the sanctuary,
and **strengthen** thee out of Zion;
3 **Remember** all thy offerings,
and **accept** thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.
4 **Grant** thee according to thine own heart,
and **fulfil** all thy counsel. ...
9 **Save**, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

Psalm 21—Thanksgiving

21:1 The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in **thy salvation** how greatly shall he rejoice!
2 Thou **hast given** him his heart's desire, and **hast not withholden** the request of his lips. Selah.
3 For thou **preventest** him with the blessings of goodness:
thou **settest** a crown of pure gold on his head.
4 **He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.**
5 His glory *is* great in **thy salvation**:
honour and majesty **hast thou laid** upon him.
6 For thou **hast made him most blessed** for ever:
thou **hast made him exceeding glad** with thy countenance

Psalm 21

1-6 People → Lord:
LORD = “thou”
King = “he”
Thanks for **Past** Victory

7 People ↔ People
LORD = “he”
King = “he”

7a **Past** Trust

7b **Future** Security

8-12 People → King:
LORD = “he”
King = “thou”
Trust for **Future** Victory

13 Worship to the LORD
LORD = “thou”
King = ? (speaking?)

Psalm 21: Who is speaking, to Whom, about Whom?

7 For the king trusteth [participle] in
the LORD,

and through the mercy of the most
High he shall not be moved [future].

13 Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine
own strength:
so will we sing and praise thy power.

Helpful References on 1-4

1 joy in thy strength

Eph. 1:19 [God's] mighty power, 20 which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead.

3, Victory in Battle

Prevent: Gen 14:17 And the king of Sodom **went out to meet** him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem **brought forth** bread and wine:

...

Gold Crown: 2Sa 12:29 And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. 30 And he took **their king's crown** from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of **gold** with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head.

Christ's Victory: 1 Cor. 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

4, Life

Mat 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, **let this cup pass from me:** nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and **was heard** in that he feared;

Helpful References on 5-8

5 Glory, Honour, Majesty

Ps. 145:1 I will extol thee, my God, O king;
... 5 I will speak of the **glorious honour** of thy **majesty** [literally, the glory of the honor of thy majesty]

Phil. 2:9 God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

6a “Thou hast made him blessings”

Gen 12:2 ... thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

6b “Made him exceeding glad”

Heb 12:2 for **the joy** that was set before him, [he] endured the cross

Isa. 53:10 when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and **the pleasure of the LORD** shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall **be satisfied**.

8 thine hand shall find out

...

1 Sam. 23:17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for **the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee**.

Psa 21:12

AV: Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, *when* thou shalt make ready *thine arrows* upon thy strings against the face of them.

Better: You shall line them up shoulder to shoulder; with your ropes shall you stand before them.

1Co 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.



Plate 14, U Chicago Oriental Inst. Pub. 107, *The Battle Reliefs of King Sety I*. <https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/oip107.pdf>