

“Prayer Before The Battle”
Psalm 20:1-9
New Year’s Services Dec 28, 2014

Psalms 20:1-9

Psalms 20:1 – “May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!” – How Are We Going To Respond In The Day Of Trouble, 2015?

Psalm 20:7 – “Some boast in chariots, and some in horses;” – The big question is, what are we trusting in?

Psalm 20, Prayer – For Victory; Then Psalm 21, Praise – For Victory.

Psalm 20 is a passage suitable for a New Year because this is a song that the people of Israel sang when the King went forth to battle.

Revelation 1:6

Thought Of Our Passage: “In The Day Of Trouble, Our Faith And Hope Must Be In The Lord Who Alone Gives The Victory.”

1. Verse 1 – May The Lord Answer You

2. Verses 2-9 – The Lord Answers Prayer (6 Ways)

1. Verse 1 – May The Lord Answer You:

Psalm 20:1

“May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!” – It opens with a realistic recognition of the situation.

Job 5:7

“Bible pictures God’s people as soldiers in His army”, Ephesians 6:11-12.

If you are not resting upon the God of Jacob, you will never make it.

In The New Testament, It Is Peter – with his handicap of congenital foot-in-mouth disease

In The Old Testament, It Is Jacob – Jacob, the trickster, the manipulator, the wheeler-dealer.

But God found a way to set Jacob free from that kind of thinking. Genesis 32, God wrestled with Jacob and broke him! Jacob came at last to trust and to worship.

Hebrews 11:21

2. Verses 2-9 – The Lord Answers Prayer (6 Ways):

Psalms 20:2

“May He send you help” – The Process Through Which God’s Help Will Come (6 Ways):

- 1. Verse 2 – Help Through Scripture:** “help from the sanctuary” – in Psalms, the sanctuary is always a picture of the place where one meets with God.

Psalms 73:16-17

For Us, The Sanctuary Is The Scriptures. This is where we get help. It is there that our minds are illuminated, Romans 12:2.

“May you find help in the sanctuary, in the Scriptures,” is the Psalmist’s prayer, “that your eyes might be enlightened and you might understand.”

- 2. Verse 2 – Help Through Prayer:** “And support you from Zion!”

“Zion” – is another name for “Jerusalem, the capital of the kingdom, the headquarters.”

In the Scriptures it stands as – “a symbol of the invisible kingdom of God with which we are surrounded, made up of ministering angels sent forth to minister to those who are to be the heirs of salvation.”

In other words, all the invisible help that God can give us in the day of trouble, in the hour of pressure, is made available through prayer.

Luke 22:43-44

- 3. Verses 3-4 – Help Through Worship:** Psalm 20:3 – After Scripture, Prayer, We Surrender To God! We Worship God!

“Meal offerings” – Perfection of Jesus Christ; His blameless character; No leaven.

“Burnt Offering” – Total dedication, total surrender of Jesus. He is the great sacrifice. And these offerings speak of the basis that He has laid, and of the guarantee.

How do we know that God will help us in the reading of Scripture and in Prayer? Because of the sacrifice of the Son of God.

“Selah,” – It means, “Stop and think, pause for a moment and think about this”, Romans 8:32.

“In Jesus’ name” means that we are praying on the basis of his sacrifice.

Psalm 20:4

When our hearts have been cleansed by the Word of God and Prayer, we worship to glorify God, and then what is left is what God wants for us.

These plans are really the day-by-day choices that you and I must make.

4. Verse 5 – Help Through Unity: Psalm 20:5

“We will sing for joy over your victory,” – This is a gathering of believers.

Victory is never a one-person accomplishment. You do not win your victories by yourself. You might think you do, but you don’t.

Psalm 20:6

5. Verses 6-7 – Help Through Faith: “Now I know that the LORD saves” – Literally, “has saved”.

“The mark of a Christian is one who is completely fearless, continually cheerful, and constantly in trouble.”

“anointed” – means the king, the one anointed king.

But it also is the very word that is translated “Messiah”, 2 Cor. 5:20.

Phil 1:19-20

Psalm 20:7

6. Verses 8-9 – Help Through Obedience: Psalm 20:8

“But we have risen and stood upright.” – Note that faith involves obedience. True faith in God is always acted upon. Faith is not faith unless there is obedience.

Psalm 20:9 – We see there an implied promise of continued prayer. The people are saying, “Give victory to the king, as we keep calling upon you, O Lord.”

Application:

1. Make Corporate Worship A Priority: Sundays And Wednesdays.

Don't make commitments to activities that will interfere with Sundays and Wednesdays.

Saturday Eve, Get a good night's rest.

2. Give Full Attention When In A Service – listen for His Message to you. Don't get sidetracked on the messenger.
3. Application – Not how I feel but how I act is what really matters.
4. Those Attending 6 Months Or Longer Have the Privilege of Serving – Knowing always involves practice. Knowing is Growing, Growing is Knowing. Pick up a Ministry Application Today; Actually Fill it out; Actually return it!
5. Be Committed To Growth In 2015.
6. Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries, Preparation time for study, Delivery of the Word.