

“WE EXULT IN THY STRENGTH”

Psalm 21

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

It is only in the Lord’s strength and His salvation that we can be glad and rejoice! (v. 1) As the Lord “is exalted” and manifests His power on behalf of his people, we then “exalt” Him in our “Song and Praise” (v. 13). It is only as the believer learns to **trust** the Lord and experiences His **loyal love** (v. 7) that he then:

- 1) Experiences God’s **Personal Blessings** (2-6)
- 2) Watches as the Lord **delivers** him **from** all his **enemies** who would destroy him (vv. 8-12)
- 3) Then nothing in life is able to **Shake** the believer (7).

This psalm seems to reflect the answer to the prayer for the king given in Psalm 20.

It is important for us to notice the similarities between this psalm and psalm 20:

- Note the parallel of v. 2: “You have given him his heart’s desire” with 20:4: “may He grant you your heart’s desire”
- Note the repeated mention of “salvation” in vv. 1 and 5 which salvation is mentioned in one form or another about 4 times in chapter 20.
- Both psalms have two primary divisions followed by a final prayer or direct address to the LORD in the last verse: in psalm 20 we have the peoples’ request for the king in vv. 1-5 and the king’s response in vv. 6-8; the reverse occurs here with the king’s response for the answer given (or a representative of the king) in vv. 1-7 and the peoples’ address to the king in vv. 8-12.

We cannot be sure of the historical situation that called forth this psalm; some are convinced that it was David’s battle with the Ammonites and the defeat of Ammon at the end of II Sam. 12. There are some interesting parallels in this psalm, but we cannot be certain.

Life has its challenges and problems; our wicked foe—Satan—will do all he can to destroy God’s people and their plans for godliness, and he will use wicked people to assist. But, our trust is in the Lord and His Loyal Love will sustain us!

YOU MUST REJOICE IN GOD’S STRENGTH AND SALVATION.

- I. THE LORD GIVES US (HIS PEOPLE) PERSONAL BLESSINGS.
 - A. He gives us our **heart’s** desire and our **lips’** request (2).
 - B. He “meets us” with the “**blessings of good things**” (3a).
 - C. He “crowns” us with honor and privilege (3b).
 - D. He gives us fullness of “life” and “length of days” (4)
 - Note that this was especially important for a king: “Long live the king!”
 - The hyperbole here may allude in David’s case to II Sam. 7 and his perpetual dynasty.
 - E. He gives “glory, splendor, and majesty” (esp. in spiritual blessings; v. 5)
 - This was quite literal in David’s case.

- Yahweh’s “salvation” brought him “glory.”
- Splendor and majesty was part of David’s kingdom.

- F. God makes us “Blessing”—in ourselves and in relation to others. (6)
- G. His “face”—“presence” is toward us; our blessing comes from His presence. (6b)
- H. God makes us secure—we won’t be shaken (7).

But the Lord also delivers His own from those who would destroy them.

II. THE LORD DELIVERS US FROM OUR DESTROYERS (8-12).

- A. They will be “found out” (“Enemies” and “those who hate”; v. 8).
- B. They will be consumed as in a fiery oven (9).
- C. The Lord will “swallow them up in His wrath”—note that he is angry with the enemies of His people when his people are doing His work! (9b)
- D. Their “Fruit” and “seed” are destroyed when they follow the same path of wickedness (10).
- E. Their “stretching out of evil” and “devising of a plot” will not succeed (11).
- F. They will be defeated from “back” and front (“faces”; v. 12).

CONCLUSION

The Lord’s king succeeds only in so far as he honors, trusts, and faithfully serves and worships Yahweh.

The same is true of us. **Trust in the Lord; rest in his Loyal love** (v. 7).

In the Lord’s strength we will be glad; in His salvation we will rejoice.

The Lord will be exalted in His strength. We must sing and praise His power.

YOU MUST REJOICE IN GOD’S STRENGTH AND SALVATION.