

The Splendor of the Sovereign

Psalm 21: 1-7

Many scholars agree that Psalm 21 was written as a sequel to Psalm 20. In the previous Psalm, the people prayed for their king, David, as he prepared for battle. Psalm 21 appears to be a psalm of praise for the Lord's faithfulness to His people. Many think David likely led them in this psalm of praise following victory in battle. (My how we need that type of leadership today!)

As I studied this passage, I was touched by what I discovered. David is now elevated as king over all Israel. He enjoys a place of prominence and power. He is surrounded by those who take care of his every need and provide security against those who would do him harm. Often such position and power generates pride and arrogance. David enjoyed the highest seat in the land, and yet he stood in awe of the Sovereign of the Ages. The king of Israel was compelled to praise the King of glory.

While we do not possess a position of such prominence within society, every believer can rejoice in their position with Christ. We too should stand in awe of our King. I want to examine the [observations](#) of David as we consider: [The Splendor of the Sovereign](#).

I. The Worship of the King (1-2) – The opening verses reveal the worship David offered unto the God he served. He was mindful of:

A. God's Strength (1a) – [The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD](#). David had enjoyed great victory in battle. He was a man of great wisdom and courage when faced with the enemy's attack. He had a valiant fighting force, made up of many courageous men. The armies of Israel were a force to be reckoned with, and yet David praised the Lord for the strength He had provided. David knew they had been victorious in battle because of the strength provided by the Lord. He would not be guilty of keeping the praise for himself. He praised the Lord because He had given the victory.

- We face a formidable foe, and yet the Lord provides victory for us. Many times I have faced situations spiritually when it seemed defeat was inevitable, and yet the Lord brought victory. We too should praise Him for the strength He provides in our times of need.

B. God's Salvation (1b) – [The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!](#) While David expressed joy in the strength of the Lord, he greatly rejoiced in the salvation of the Lord. When faced with the enemy, God had delivered them from death and

destruction. In their moment of need, God had given great deliverance. This created an attitude of worship and great rejoicing in the heart of David.

- It appears that David rejoiced for their physical salvation, being delivered from the hand of the enemy. That is certainly worthy of praise unto the Lord. I am certain He has spared and protected us from death more times than we know. I am thankful for His hand of protection and deliverance in this life, but I greatly rejoice in the salvation I have received through the sacrifice of Christ my Lord. I was dead in trespasses and sin, with no hope of life. Through His marvelous grace I was offered salvation and delivered from the death and destruction of sin! What a Savior! He is worthy of our worship and praise!

C. God's Supply (2) – [Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.](#) The Lord had given David the desire of his heart and had not withheld the requests he had made. God had been faithful to supply the desires and needs in David's life.

- Surely each of us can rejoice in the Lord's abundant supply in our lives as well. Has He not been good to us? Are we not blessed beyond measure? Has there ever been a time when God has failed you or ignored your pleas for help and grace? He has blessed me more than I ever could have imagined. I have been saved by His grace, filled with His Spirit, enjoy a constant Companion and Guide, and I am promised eternity in heaven with Him! Yes, I have been blessed! [Psalm 37:4-5 – Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.](#) ^[5] [Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.](#)

II. The Wonder of the King (3-5) – Following a time of worship, David now stands in awe and wonder of the Sovereign. This is the natural progression as we worship and consider Him. David stood in awe of:

A. God's Provision (3) – [For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.](#) God had met David with great blessings and goodness; He had placed a crown of pure gold upon his head, as ruler and king of Israel. David was moved by the great provision he had received of the Lord. It is possible he reminisced of earlier times as a shepherd boy tending sheep, or the many nights he spent in hiding, on the run from Saul, and now he enjoyed the abundant provision of the Lord.

- I do not rule over a kingdom and I never will, but that doesn't mean I have not received the Lord's provision. As I look back over my life, I am amazed at the abundance God has provided for me. I enjoy His goodness each day that I live. I have a wonderful family that serves the Lord

alongside me. I am blessed to pastor a great congregation of believers. I have the privilege of proclaiming the Gospel message for His glory! I enjoy much from the good hand of my Lord.

[Eph.1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.](#)

B. God's Prosperity (4) – [He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.](#) David rejoiced that the provision and blessing of God was not limited to that particular season in life. God had been faithful and He would continue His faithfulness to David. God had given life abundant, even in seasons of difficulty and despair, and He would continue to offer abundant life. It is interesting to note that David speaks of length of days forever. Although he lived hundreds of years prior to the Lord's sacrifice on Calvary, yet David understood the promise of eternal life for those who were in Christ. He rejoiced for his prosperous life at that time, and for the eternal life he enjoyed in the Lord.

- God has graciously provided life for us today and all the blessings associated with it. We can rest knowing He will be there with us, providing for us, as long as we live. Every day we have comes from the good hand of God. We too have the blessed assurance of eternal life through salvation in Christ our Lord. He rose triumphant over death, and all who are His in salvation will experience resurrection life in Him!

C. God's Providence (5) – [His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.](#) David rejoiced in the providential hand of God. He had provided salvation in times of battle and also guaranteed life beyond the grave. Of all the people within the kingdom of Israel, God had chosen to place David on the throne as king. David was well aware that this was not based on his merit or worth, but the providence and grace of God alone. He had been chosen of the Lord to serve in that capacity.

- I am thankful for the providential hand of God in my life! I am what I am because of His grace. He provided for my salvation and has chosen to use me according to His divine plan. Of all the people in the world that He could have chosen to use, He chose to offer grace and use me within the kingdom work! What a gracious Savior we serve!

III. The Witness of the King (6-7) – As David pondered all he had received, he was aware that his life stood as a testimony to the God he served. Consider:

A. The Duration (6a) – *For thou hast made him most blessed for ever*. God's blessing on David was not seasonal or sporadic. God provided abundant blessing each day and David knew the blessings of God would endure forever.

- We too enjoy God's blessing each day and we can rest knowing His gracious blessing and abundance will endure for eternity. We are promised great abundance as we enter His eternal presence in heaven!

B. The Distinction (6b) – *thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance*. David not only enjoyed physical and material blessings in life – he also enjoyed the presence of God with him each day. The gracious countenance of God shined upon his life, revealing God's good pleasure upon him.

- The world doesn't understand such blessing, and they never will apart from a personal relationship with Christ. Of all that we possess, nothing is of greater value than the presence of our Lord through His Spirit. We have the Spirit dwelling within each moment we live. We experience His awesome presence in times of worship and praise. I rejoice for the countenance of the Lord shining upon the lives of His people.

C. The Devotion (7) – *For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved*. God had been faithful to David, and this was evident for all to see. David placed his faith and trust in the Lord. He devoted his life unto the Lord, looking to Him each day for continued guidance and provision. He knew as long as he walked with the Lord, depending upon Him, his life would be secure and prosperous.

- This challenged me greatly as I pondered the depth of David's words. He had received much from the Lord, and I realized that I too have been given much. The Lord loved humanity so much that He was willing to die for our sin to provide for our salvation. His devotion to sinful men was proven on Calvary. All that I enjoy in life comes from His good hand. Such love and devotion creates a compelling desire to serve Him faithfully in return. He is my life, my hope, my strength, my peace, my joy – my everything!

Conclusion: David stood in awe of the Sovereign of the Ages. He was aware of his great need for the Lord and all the Lord had provided in his life. Such awareness prompted heart-felt worship. Clearly the Lord has been gracious in our lives as well. We have received much. I pray that will prompt us to worship Him in a way that brings honor to Him. If you are unsaved, I urge you to consider the provision available in Christ and receive Him by faith in salvation!