

## His Banner over Us

Psalm 20: 1-9

Our text today is again a Psalm of David. This psalm is a prayer of petition and praise. It appears to have been written prior to David going into one of the many battles he fought while serving as king of Israel. The first portion reveals a prayer offered for the king, [Vv.1-5](#), and the last portion is David's response to the prayer of the people, [Vv.6-9](#).

We all know that war and battle are difficult and very horrific. Most of us present this evening have not encountered actual battle, but some among us have. We all should be grateful for their dedication and sacrifice to preserve the freedoms and way of life all Americans enjoy. While most of us can't relate to being engaged in battle in a wartime environment, every believer can identify with the spiritual battles we face. These verses have application regardless of the context of battle we find ourselves engaged.

As we will discover, the battle is not ours; it belongs to the Lord. Whether we are facing a physical, emotional, or spiritual battle, we should rely upon the Lord to fight the battle for us. He already conquered the enemy as He bled and died on the cross and rose again triumphant over sin, death, and hell. We will face nothing in life that our Lord can't provide victory over! Those within the body of Christ are secure within His mighty grip. We are covered by His banner of grace. Let's examine the [characteristics](#) our Lord possesses as we consider: [His Banner over Us](#).

**I. The Security of the LORD (1-3)** – These verses reveal the prayer of the people for the Lord's security and protection of David as he entered battle. We can rely on the same characteristics and pray for the Lord's security in our lives as well. Consider:

**A. The Hope Involved (1)** – [The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee](#). The people knew their only hope was in the Lord, and apart from Him they would surely perish. They prayed for a listening ear from the Lord as David called upon Him in times of trouble. They sought the Lord to defend David against his enemies. The people understood that as long as the Lord was on their side, they would enjoy victory and blessing.

- Likely everyone here tonight is aware of the power of prayer, and yet we need reminded to engage fervently in prayer. The world is looking to humanity and its devices to provide help and security, but we know that only comes from the Lord. Many look to government or Wall Street. Our trust must rest in Christ alone. He alone had the power to redeem and He alone is our hope. He will hear the cries of His people and defend us in our day of trouble.

**B. The Help Involved** (2) – [Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.](#) The people were familiar with the sanctuary in Jerusalem, the Tabernacle where the presence of God dwelt. They knew where their hope was and they knew in whom their help rested. Just as God's presence and power rested upon the Mercy Seat within the Tabernacle, His mighty presence and power would be evident in battle as well. He was their only source of strength and security.

- The saved enjoy a source of strength and help that is beyond our ability to fully comprehend. As Jesus died on the cross, the veil of separation was torn in two. We now have unhindered access to the throne of grace. We have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit abiding within. We will face nothing that our Lord is unaware of or unable to handle.

**C. The Honor Involved** (3) – [Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.](#) The people understood the importance of a right relationship with the Lord and genuine worship if they were to enjoy God's blessing. They had been faithful to offer sacrifices in order to seek God's blessing prior to going into battle. This revealed their need for God's help, strength, and provision in battle. They acknowledged their great need for the Lord.

- The parallel application breaks down somewhat here for believers. Christ fully satisfied the righteous demands of God, fully atoning for sin and securing His provision in our lives. However, like those in David's day, we too must recognize our need for the Lord and rest in His grace. We must live our lives in close communion with the Lord if we are to experience His great blessing. We must be obedient to the direction of the Spirit and follow His guidance. Victory will never be enjoyed where worship is absent!

**II. The Supremacy of the LORD** (4-5) – We cannot know whom David was preparing to face in battle at this particular time, but it is evident the people knew their God was superior to any enemy they would face. They were aware of and sought:

**A. His Purposes** (4) – [Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.](#) We must remember this speaks of the prayer the people offered for David. They requested the Lord fulfill the desire of David's heart and fulfill the plans he had for victory. Having read the extent of their prayers up to this point, it is evident the people knew David desired the will of God and sought His counsel for victory. The people prayed confidently for David, knowing his desires and plans were consistent with the will and purposes of God.

- This serves as a challenge to pray for those in positions of leadership. We need to pray that God would guide their hearts, providing counsel in their lives. As believers we need to seek the

plans and purposes of God for our lives. When our desires are consistent with the will of God, we can rest knowing He will work in our lives and give us our desires. As David walked within the will of God, feeling confident of knowing the heart of God, we too must walk in such a way to properly discern the plans and purposes of God for our lives. One thing is certain: God will never lead us contrary to His Word. If our desires are inconsistent with the Word, we know we have missed the purpose of God for our lives.

**B. His Provisions** (5) – *We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.* The people prayed for David and were thankful God had chosen him to lead them into battle, but their hope rested in the provisions of the Lord. They knew God would care for and keep them as long as they walked in fellowship with Him. Even facing the enemy in battle, they rejoiced in the salvation of the Lord with confident expectation. They carried banners into battle that identified them as the people of God. They rested in the strength of the Lord rather than the abilities of men.

- This serves as a beautiful reminder for us as well. Regardless of what we face in life, we can rejoice in the salvation of the Lord. We cannot know what life may hold, but we know who holds our lives in His mighty hand. We can rest secure under the great banner of grace. We have assurance through His many promises that we are sealed and kept until the time He calls for us. May we do as the Israelites in David's day and publicly identify with our loving Savior and sovereign Lord!

**III. The Sufficiency of the LORD** (6-9) – Our closing verses reveal the response of David to the prayer of the people. Consider:

**A. The Confession** (6) – *Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.* David acknowledged the prayer of the people and assured them that he agreed with their prayers. He affirmed his need for the Lord and his confidence in God's ability to meet his need, whatever it may be. David revealed he could face any enemy without fear as long as the Lord was with him.

- We have studied and even experienced the Lord's provision in our lives many times, and yet we need reminded. It does us good to spend some time with the Lord, confessing our great need for Him and our faith in His ability to meet our needs. When our hearts are set on the Lord, in full assurance, we too can face any adversity that comes our way!

**B. The Composure** (7) – *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.* David knew men were often tempted to place their trust in weapons, chariots, horses, and even sheer numbers, but he had learned to trust in the Lord. He had experienced the mighty hand of God bringing deliverance when it was humanly impossible. God had never failed him, and David had developed the ability to face any enemy with full composure and confidence for the battle. He was not depending on anything other than the Lord. This brought great comfort and peace when faced with difficult circumstances.

- The peace and assurance that accompanies salvation in Christ is a wonderful aspect of life. We tend to worry and become anxious over various circumstances, but in reality we can face them with confident composure, knowing we are secure in the Lord's hand. Faith in the finished work of Christ while resting in His promises allows us to face any adversity with settled confidence and composure. We cannot know how it all will unfold, but we can face every circumstance with peace and assurance in Christ.

**C. The Confidence** (8-9) – *They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.* [9] *Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.* David knew the enemy trusted in chariots and horses and would soon fall in battle. He knew God was on his side and would provide victory according to His divine plan. He trusted the Lord to save him in the midst of battle. He acknowledges the King of glory in his closing thoughts. He served as king of Israel, but his confidence rested in the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- We live in a world filled with wickedness, immorality, and violence. It seems as if the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer. We must bear in mind that their prosperity is fleeting. The Lord will return one day and judge the sin of this world. Those who prosper through wickedness and rebellion will be brought low by the righteous Judge. Our confidence rests in the Lord, the King of glory. He has not forgotten or forsaken us. He will return for us one day and we will experience the beauty and peace of His eternal presence. Uncertainty abounds in our world today, but we can rest in absolute confidence of our Lord's return and eternal life in Him!

**Conclusion:** This has been an interesting passage of Scripture. It reveals the Israelite's approach to impending battle. They faced it with comfort and assurance, being covered by the provision and power of God. They feared no evil because God was with them.

We too face much uncertainty and adversity, but we can rest in the promises of our Lord and Savior. He secured our redemption on the cross and provided eternal life as He rose triumphant in resurrection life. There is nothing we face in life that He is unable to handle and nothing will be able to separate us from His secure and loving hand. If you are yet unsaved, you

don't enjoy this provision. Seek Him while there is time and opportunity; respond to the call of salvation today!