

Psalm 21 God's Strength
By Pastor Roy Hogan

Psalm 20 was a request unto the Lord for help in wartime for the people of Israel. This Psalm 21 boast concerning the strength of the Lord, and the help he gives in time of need. It is beyond great that we serve a God with awesome strength. This is a Psalm of David, King of Israel. Psalm 21 is a song of victory. It is a coronation hymn. This Psalm points us forward to the day the Almighty with return to earth and destroy every enemy even casting death and hell into the lake of fire. Rest assured, child of God, better times lie ahead.

This Psalm ends with the subscription *upon Aijeleth Shahar*. This Psalm was sent to the Chief Musician with this subscription. The meaning of this Hebrew expression is "hind of the morning." The hind, to you and I, is the deer. So, just as the antlers of the deer rise above upward above all creatures at the dawn of day, the Almighty stands above all else.

21:1

The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

The war has been won in Israel. The shout of victory is at hand. How was victory achieved? Was it by the great warring ability of King David? We know from history David was a mighty warrior. No, the victory came not by the hand of David. The secret of the victory is the King of Glory. David gives credit where credit is due in this verse 1. The credit goes to the LORD. Ten lepers were healed, but only one gave glory to the healer. How often do we credit the doctor instead of crediting God? It is the LORD that heals the sick, gives sight to the blind, causes to lame to walk, the deaf to hear and the dumb to talk. Help us, dear God, to always give glory to you in all good things.

David found *joy in thy strength*. When we are weak, we are made strong in him, the Lord of Glory. It is not the weapons of warfare, the guns, the missiles, or the airplanes that brought our men and

women home in World War II. It was the strength of the Lord. King David gave credit where credit was due. He rejoiced greatly in the strength of the Lord. Are you ever down and out? Think back to the times God gave victory in your life. Moses instructed Joshua to write down the victory God gave Israel in the first battle in the wilderness journey. I believe Moses and his leaders looked back on this written record in time of discouragement that they may find joy in the strength of the Lord.

21:2

Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah

David's *heart's desire* and the *request of his lips* is found written in the previous Psalm 20. James 4:2 *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.* Our human nature seems to be that we call on the Lord for help as a last resort. After we have called on others for advice, after we have read books, and done a google search, we turn to God. Too often, God is a last resort. This is not pleasing to God. He is our heavenly father, not a last resort. My earthly father provided for his family by the help of God. Suppose I had a need while living in my father's house. First, I went to the neighbor next door for help. The neighbor could not help. So, I went to the neighbor across the street to ask for help. That neighbor could not help. So, I call a friend across town for help. The friend could not help. Finally, after exhausting all possible sources of help, I turned to my father for help. This plan of action would have greatly displeased my father. He would have been upset.

We often hear the term "heart's desire" and as verse 2 states. Psalm 37:4 *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.* God grants the desires of the hearts of his children. David never desired a new palace or more horses for his army. He never desired a new chariot. These may be desires of his flesh. Bathsheba was a desire of David's flesh. Folk ask God for a new Cadillac when the Ford they are driving is very suitable. They are desiring from the flesh and not from the heart. God providing

the request of our flesh is not promised. He does promise to give his children the desires of their heart.

21:3

For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.

Preventest has the meaning “camest to meet.” This verse mentions two tokens of victory that were presented to King David. The first is *blessings of goodness*. This is the *spoils of victory*. It is sweet when the Lord takes away from the Devil what he has stolen and gives it to God’s children. The Devil started with nothing. He sinned against God in Heaven and was tossed out of Heaven and landed on the earth. He landed empty handed. Therefore, whatever he has he has stolen. He does not have a salary for he does not work for a living. He makes his followers his slaves. When the Devil tempted Christ in the wilderness with the promise of giving him “all these things,” he was promising to give him things he already owned. What a silly offer this was! Steal my car, then offer to give it back to me. It is a blessing to watch God take away from Satan that which he has stolen and then give it to his children.

The second token of victory in this verse is the *crown*. I attribute all victory over Satan and sin to the power of the work of Christ on Calvary and the empty tomb. The cross and empty tomb are the epitome of Christ’s victory over Satan. I can close my eyes and imagine King David placing the crown on his head just as the trumpet sounded the note of victory. I believe the Devil coughed, or may have even choked, at this moment. What a day “coronation day” will be when Jesus receives the crowns won for him by his children.

21:4-6

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.

In these three verses, we see given to us all that any person could ever ask for. Three things are mentioned. Verse four promises *eternal life*. Yes, eternal life for God's children is not just a New Testament thing. Here it is in the Old Testament. In war, the enemy may take our weapons, our horses, and our chariots, but we desire above all to keep our life. David asked to live through the conflict of war, and God granted his wish. God also, as he often does, gave him more than he asked for. He gave him life plus eternal life. Damnable is the doctor that God saves a sinner who instantly becomes his child only to lose the child to Satan the next day. This is nonsense. Why get saved to get lost? Why become a child to wind up an orphan? Salvation is a birth, and a birth is irreversible.

Secondly, in verse five we find *honor and majesty* are placed on the King. We not only have life given by the victorious hand of God, we also have a position of honor. We reside in honor and majesty. God's children are also his servants, but they are not homeless and vagabonds. There is not on this planet a more exalted position than to be known as a child of God. It is an honor to be born again. It is a granting of majesty to be known as the King's son. The redeemed never glory in themselves, but rather, they glory in the position in which God has placed them through the new birth. I Corinthians 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Victory over the enemy came not only with the promise of eternal life and a position of honor, but, thirdly, it came with *blessings*. Life is often harsh, but we are *blessed*. Life's highway has ditches, potholes, and speed humps, but we are blessed. I am blessed when I go to my place of rest at night. I am blessed when I am able to cloth myself at the morning hour. I am blessed when I take my fork, reach to my plate, and transport food to my mouth. A fork and a spoon are

fantastic transporters of blessings. Shoestrings are a great invention; they secure a blessing to my feet. Thank God for eye glasses. I am better able to see the many blessings God sends my way. I can better see your cup as it fills with blessings. I may get a drink from your saucer.

Some of the most powerful and anointed services I have ever attended are funerals. Did you say funerals? How can this be? It is because of victory through Jesus Christ. The victory we have in Christ Jesus includes victory over death.

21:7

For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.

Where do you place your trust? Some trust in bank accounts. Some trust in the government. Some trust in relatives. This is a problem for bank accounts become empty. Through history, governments have fallen. Job spoke of how his family and friends failed him. David place his trust in God. He had some great generals such as Joab. He had citizens loyal to him as their king. Yet, David preferred to trust the LORD. Here, LORD means Jehovah. Jehovah is God's name as *provider*. Jehovah God speaks of his promise that *I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Jehovah God is the God of covenant*. His promises are secured by the blood of the cross of Calvary, and that blood is located this day at the mercy seat in Heaven.

The *most High* is God as the *owner of all as ruler of the world*. So, we have confidence in God. We can trust him. Why is this possible? This possible because we are bound to him and he to us by covenant and because owns all, he has the resources to believer.

21:8

Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

God marks his children. The Devil marks his children, even with the mark 666 in the tribulation. There is no confusion as to who belongs to God and who belongs to the devil. Occasionally, we hear of a soldier killed by something called “friendly fire.” This means he was mortally wounded by the weaponry of his own army. God has never, nor will ever, lose one of his to “friendly fire.” He knows his sheep and they know him. I may not know who is saved and who is not, but God has no problem discerning a sheep from a goat. I may see wolf dressed as a sheep and not know it is actually a wolf. This is not a problem for the all-seeing eye is God.

21:9-11

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. 10 Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men. 11 For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform.

There is a sweet place located upward that we call Heaven. There is a place of despair located downward that we call Hell. We live in a day of grace. Someday, God will withdraw his grace. Like Hell itself, the earth will become as an oven. The seven years of tribulation on this earth can never be compared to any event ever known in all the history of mankind. One-fourth the population of the earth die in a single plague.

To be burned in fire seems an awful death to die. Folk die by drowning and some by suffocation, and some by freezing. Death by fire may very well be the most awful manner in which to die. It is impossible for my human mind to comprehend the entire earth on fire like unto an oven. The Devil himself will one day go to Hell.

21:12

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

Sometimes, criminals are executed for the worst of crimes. Execution is carried out in several ways. One way is to be shot by a firing squad. The criminal stands facing his executioner. In verse twelve, the bad guys are shot in the back. They are deemed unworthy to die while looking into the face of God. This world has never seen the anger of God that is about to fall on this planet.

21:13

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

I am thankful to be on the winning side. How did I get to the winning side? At age eleven, I repented of my sins at an altar. I then asked Jesus into my heart. I then received him by faith. He, Jesus, saved me. If God has the power to destroy the earth as the Bible says he does, a sinner should be worried. A sinner should be making haste to call on His name and be saved.