

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 21

Rejoicing in the Victory

Quote

“There can be no victory where there is no combat.”

Richard Sibbes

I. Introduction

The Lord who leads his people into battle is the same Lord who will lead them into victory. And when that triumph comes, believers should give thanks with grateful hearts to God who alone has won the day. Psalm 21 is a celebrative psalm, a song of jubilant praise offered to God for the victory he granted when David led Israel into battle against their enemies.

This psalm may have been connected originally with Psalm 20 because the structure and contents are similar. If so, Psalm 20 is a prayer offered *before* battle, a request for victory as David prepared to lead his armies into the conflict. Thus, Psalm 21 would be a prayer offered by David *after* this same battle after he, the Lord, defeated their enemies. In these verses David, the king and general of Israel, along with the people, rejoiced in the triumphs granted by God over their enemies. Likewise, David was encouraged to anticipate future victories in the Lord.

Addressed to “the director of music,” this song is “a psalm of David,” the same king mentioned in verses 1 and 7.

II. Commentary

MAIN IDEA: David as the king and commander of Israel’s forces rejoices in God’s victories granted over his enemies.

A David’s Rejoicing (21:1–6)

21:1–3. The first six verses contain David’s celebration for past victories given by God on the battlefield. David praised the Lord first for the divine strength he gave which led to victories. These victories, to be sure, were in direct response to the petitions David had made of God. Accordingly, God welcomed him back from battle with rich blessings that accompanied the victor. Perhaps this was a reference to spoils gathered from defeated enemies. Most specifically, David returned to exchange his warrior’s helmet for the visible emblem of victory—a crown of pure gold, possibly the crown that had belonged to the defeated king.

21:4–6. The king had prayed for length of days, in essence requesting that his life be spared in battle. This prayer was answered, since God gave it to him. These military victories enhanced David’s glory, ... splendor, and majesty as Israel’s king. God had given him prominence. Likewise, this regal honor would lead ultimately to the eternal blessings of God’s reward in heaven for ever. But presently, David had been made glad with the joy of experiencing intimate fellowship with God in his holy

presence. These battles, like all difficulties that believers face, drew David closer to God.

B David's Reliance (21:7)

21:7. Here is the underlying reason for David's great military victories—the king trusts in the Lord. Because he relied upon the unfailing love (see “Deeper Discoveries,” 23:6) of God, he was granted success by God on the battlefield. Thus, he would not be shaken when attacked by the enemy but would stand immovable and secure.

C David's Reckoning (21:8–12)

21:8–12. As David and the people looked to the future, they rejoiced that more victories were certain to follow as they continued to rely on God. They believed that the Lord would capture their enemies and seize their foes. In the day of battle, God would make them like a fiery furnace, burning them up in his wrath. So complete would be his victory that their posterity would be utterly destroyed from the earth. David's enemies might plot evil against him, but they would not succeed. These foes would be forced to turn their backs in retreat and run away in the day of battle. Victory belongs to the Lord!

D David's Request (21:13)

21:13. In this final appeal, David entreated the Lord to assert his irresistible strength again to defeat his enemies. David and the people would sing and praise God, who was full of might to win all other conflicts.

III. Conclusion

In the battles of life, believers are attacked constantly by three great foes: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Spiritual warfare, like hand-to-hand combat, is difficult because behind these three evils are forces that seek to destroy believers (Eph. 6:12). It is critical that believers live with unshakable confidence in the Lord. “Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14). God promises victory wherever we go as we trust and follow him. As God has proven himself victorious in the past, he will grant similar spiritual victories in the present as his people rely on him.