

Psalm 20 – Bible Study Notes Spiritual Enemies and Overwhelming Situations

Background context: Probably a psalm regarding David's pending war with major enemy, though the specific enemy is not known.

Outline Structure:

- I. Prayer of the people and the King (v. 1)
 - A. Acts of the people (vv. 2-5)
 - 1. People's prayer (vv. 2-4)
 - 2. People's confidence in God's victory (v. 5)
 - B. Acts of the King (vv. 6-8)
 - 1. King contrasting the futility of depending on things rather than God (vv. 6-7)
 - 2. King's confidence in God's victory (v. 8)
- II. Prayer of the people and the King (v. 9)

Opening and Closing Prayer (vv. 1, 9)

The prayer involves two things:

Prayer for self and others;

Dependence on God to overcome the enemy.

The prayer was the prayer of the King and the people.

Life Question

Tell of a time in your walk with Jesus that you faced a spiritual enemy or overwhelming odds?

Reflecting on these verses, what can we do when we are faced with these situations?

Acts of the People (vv. 2-5)

The people sought God's help for their King and their people.

They worshipped God prior to the battle.

The people were confident in victory.

They recognized the victory belonged to God.

They did not claim their own victory, but God's victory.

They completely trusted God to defeat the enemy.

Life Question

Why is it important to worship God in order to overcome the enemy? Why is it critical to give God the credit for victory?

Acts of the King (vv. 6-8)

The King knew that only a fool depends on things or himself for victory.

The King contrasted his enemy's boasting about their own strength and his boasting in God's strength.

The King recognized trusting yourself or your things leads to defeat.

Trusting in God leads to victory.

Life Questions

Tell of a time when you depending on your own skills or talents when you faced a tough situation? What were the results?

Reflecting on this psalm, what should we do to defeat the enemy?