GOD GIVES THE VICTORY

**DATE: 5/24/2015 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 20**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Psalm 20** and **21** go together

Both are Battle songs

The **20th psalm** precedes the battle and the **21st** follows the battle

**Psalm 20** is a *Psalm of Prayer for the Battle*,

While **Psalm 21** is *praise for the victory of the battle*

**Psalm 20** Anticipates the victory

How should Christians react in the day of Battle / Trouble?

Christians should trust God for protection in the day of Battle / Trouble,

Because it is God that will give us the victory

Trust in God and you will stand in the day of Battle

As Christians, we are going to have Battles in our life

How are we going to react during these times of troubles?

We must run to God

In the **20th Psalm**, David pens a prayer for Israel to pray while he is in battle

David placed his trust in God for protection in the day of trouble because he knew God would give him the victory

David knew this from experience

- God had delivered him from the Lion and the Bear

- God had delivered him from Goliath

- God would deliver him in this battle as well

Christians should trust God for protection in the day of trouble, because God will give us the victory

It is evident throughout history David fought and won many battles

The reason for his victories was David sought after God

Throughout the book of Psalms there are prayers written by David for support and deliverance

David knew how to react, David knew where to run, he knew who to cry to during his day of trouble

Everyone in this building has seen their share of pain and heartache, or days of trouble

Once again, how are you going to react when you face these hard times?

- There are many who want to give up

- There are many who want to blame God / or others

- Many want to try something other than God

This is not how the Bible tells us to react during this time

In these verses, the Bible identifies how we are to react in the day of trouble

Let’s pray and think on that thought this morning

***“God Gives the Victory”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

**I. “RELY ON GOD’S PROTECTION” – vs. 1-4**

Christians need to Rely on God’s Protection

**Reliance** – *Dependence, Confidence, one’s primary support*

Who or what are you depending on for your protection?

Do you have a gun in the house?

I’m not against guns, but when you lay your head on your pillow at night you should ask God to protect you and keep you safe,

Then when you say Amen, if you still need to put a bullet in the gun and lay it beside your bed …

I wonder Who you are really trusting?

So many people are relying on protection from various means rather than relying on God’s protection

This was not the case with David in this Psalm

He developed a simple prayer that we all can pray

**A. Ask God to ‘Defend’ You** **– v.1**

***“The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;”***

The word ***“defend”*** that King David uses is a Hebrew word that actually means *to make lofty*, or is like the word, *inaccessible*

The enemy is active and he wants to destroy the plan of God

Jesus declared in **John 10:10** -***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”***

When your day of trouble comes, the devil will attack your thought life

Then many times, thoughts will arise that are against God and His plan

It is in this time you need to draw your attention toward God and ask God to make you *inaccessible,*

That is to set you in a place the devil cannot attack you

David often asked God to keep him in the Shadow of His wings

In the very Presence of God

I’ve often asked the Lord to stand at the door of my heart and met the attacks of the enemy

**B. Ask God to ‘Help’ You – v. 2**

***“Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;”***

The ***“sanctuary”*** and ***“Zion”*** are references to the Tabernacle or Temple

Again representing the presence of God

**Exodus 33:14, 15 – *“And He said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest”   
“And he (Moses) said unto Him, If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence”***

I love that we have so many young adults interested

I’m thankful that someone took an interest in me as a young adult

The young people of our world need stability and Godly guidance

Our young adults also are looking forward to the time they are self-reliant

I remember having those thoughts

I remember telling my parents, *I can’t wait to be on my own! I can’t wait to have FREEDOM!*

This mindset of self-reliance can be dangerous though, especially in the Christian life

You can’t live life without help

You cannot live the Christian life without God’s help

It does not matter how strong you may be, how popular you are, how rich you are, you need God’s help EVERYDAY!

**Psalm 121 …**

**C. Ask God to ‘Remember’** **You – v.3**

***“Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah”***

Ever forget something because you failed to write it down

The shortest pencil is still longer then the longest memory

Some thoughts are just like the wind / fleeting

If you don’t have a system in place to capture those thoughts when they come / you will never get much accomplished

Even though you are busy at times and forget a few things,

God will never forget you

Jesus encouraged us in **Matthew 28:20 –**

***“I am with you alway, even to the end of the world”***

God loves each person in this building and he will NEVER forget us

**Hebrews 13:5 *– “…for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

**D. Ask God to ‘Answer’ You – v.4**

***“Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel”***

America has so much technology that it is almost impossible to not communicate with someone

Pagers, cordless telephones, cellular phones, high speed internet and web-cameras

Yet, these things can fail at any moment

But in the middle of the night, when no one is around,

You can still call upon God out of your heart, and He will hear you

You can be in the lowest depth of the sea

Or on the highest mountain or can simply be at the grocery store, and God will hear you    
  
This simple prayer by David can be adapted in your prayer life in order to have protection in the day of trouble

So many are relying on so many things other than God

May God Defend, Help, Remember and Answer us

As we learn to …

**“RELY ON GOD’S PROTECTION”**

We also need to …

**II. “REST IN GOD’S PROVISION” – vs. 5-7**

In the day of trouble, Christians must continue to trust God

This concept of trusting God is what gave Israel problems throughout their history

After Israel had crossed the Red Sea, they could not trust God to give them food

They could not trust God for water

It was very difficult for them to trust in God when times were not going their way

Many people are doing the same today

Many are placing their trust in something(s) other than God

For example there is a big movement toward Eastern mysticism and the paranormal

I happened to catch a radio station that had a psychic as their guest and caller after caller phoned in to tell the psychic their problem, or have the psychic tell them what problems they might face

More and more are using transcendental meditation

***“Some trust in chariots and some in horses...”***

Also, drug use is on the rise

**Quote:** In a book entitled Understanding Today’s Youth Culture, Walt Mueller said, *more than 42% of high school seniors reported using illicit drugs during the last year. More than 29% of eighth graders have tried an illicit drug.* He continued to write about teenage drinking, he said, *64.2% of high school seniors have gotten drunk at least once. 40% of tenth graders have had a drink within the last month.*

***“Some trust in chariots and some in horses...”***

I hear many people say - *If I could win the lottery, my problems would be over!*

Many others work extra hours and neglect family and church time in order to have a new boat or the newest truck

As David stated –

***“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses...”***

They are trying to take *“In God We Trust”* out of America

I am glad they haven’t been successful as of yet

But my question is, DO WE REALLY TRUST GOD?

We can say it all we want, we can place it on money, in the court house, but are we REALLY trusting God?

***“Some trust in chariots, some in horses …***

But those who really don’t …

***…will remember the name of the Lord our God!”***  
  
Why didn’t David trust in chariots and horses?

Should we trust in material possessions or things other than God?

David answers these questions in **vs. 5 & 6** …

***“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”***

Christians should trust God because salvation comes from Him

Salvation in this context means deliverance

David knew God would deliver him from the hand of the enemy

Scripture informs us that there were many times David was surrounded by the enemy

The story of David and Goliath, David and King Saul, his own son and others demonstrate how David was surrounded by the enemy, and God delivered him

I am sure many of you have troubles and problems that seem overwhelming

I want to encourage you by telling you to trust God

Talk to some Christians who have been believers for many years and listen to their stories of God’s salvation in their life and they will certainly tell you to trust God    
  
Christians should trust God because He hears our prayers

**v. 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”***

There are many verses in the Bible that validate God’s attentiveness, yet my favorite is in **Isaiah 59:1 -**

***“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:”***

God hears you the first time you pray  
  
In order for God to Give Us the Victory … We must …

**“RELY ON GOD’S PROTECTION”**

**“REST IN GOD’S PROVISION”**

And finally...

**III. “REMEMBER GOD’S PROMISE” – vs. 8, 9**

***“They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright” “Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call”***

In the day of trouble, Christians must remember God’s promise of victory  

I don’t like to lose

I am not sure if I know anyone who does

I am sure if a professional athlete would talk to the media and tell them he/she will be playing to lose a game, the athlete would not be on the team very long

So when I read the Word of God, I find out that I am on the winning team    
 God promises we will stand

It is SO comforting to know that even though trouble is all around us, WE WILL STILL STAND!

Even though your enemies will fall, YOU WILL STAND!

**CONCLUSION**

Horatio Spafford was a great Christian man who knew about sorrow

He had lost his only son, 4 years old, to pneumonia

He lost part of his life savings in the Chicago fire

When he started to get his life turned around, someone told him to go to England to hear a preacher preach a Revival there

So he got tickets to take a ship there with his family, but at the last second, someone told him he needed to stay an extra day and clean up what the fires had destroyed

So he stayed while he sent his family on a head

On the way, the ship his family was on collided with another ship and he lost all three of his daughters

But he found true comfort with the Lord

On his way to England to be with his wife, he told the captain to let him know where his daughters had died

After he saw the place, he went to his room and wrote

*“When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrow like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, It is well, with my soul.   
Tho’ Satan should buffet, tho’ trails should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul”*  
Maybe you are here today and you have never given your life to Jesus, I want to invite you to do so today

Maybe you are here today and you are in the middle of trouble, I want to assure you that you can pray and he will hear you

You are not alone!

You can trust God for protection in the day of trouble, because God will give you the victory

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