



Brown CG Zoom Lesson

Discussion Guide

Psalm 20 – July 26, 2020

I. Getting Started:

This Psalm is a prayer on behalf of the King David. The Psalm is of the Davidic hymnal and may first have been composed when David was king. The central theme of the psalm is the need of the king for the Presence of God, which Presence must inevitably bring him both protection and deliverance.

While this Psalm seems to be directly related to circumstances of battle, there are also plenty of other references and terminologies that suggest the psalm is a continuing round of intercessions for the king, who was both Yahweh's anointed and the special representative to God's people.

As we go through Psalm 20 today, I want us to focus on four important relational things David relied on with God to guide his life, decisions and path, which were 1) **Need for God**, 2) **Dependence on God**, 3) **Devotion to God** and ultimately his 4) **Trust in God!**

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Psalm 20 – To the choirmaster of David; Trust in the Name of the Lord Our God

¹ May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

² May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

³ May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices!

⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!

⁵ May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions! ⁶ Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸ They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. ⁹ O LORD, save the king!

May he answer us when we call.

Verses 1-5: The Psalm begins with a prayer for God's delivering presence. There was obvious distress, war or problems that David needed God's protection. It even asked that he be sent to a safe sanctuary away from the enemies that wanted to kill David.

Next it is important to note that they are praying that God will remember David's worship and acts of devotion and that they will be blessed! While this may seem self-serving to us, it is interesting to see how David was before God asking for his worship to be blessed and that God would find favor in them. Because then of "successful worship and offering", David asked that all of God's plans would be addressed and delivered through his hands and actions. This also conveys a deep theological awareness that their strength rested fully and completely in God's kingship, not David's.

Discussion Question:

1. What is the first thing you notice about Verse 1 and why David is praying in the first place? What did he recognize and accept right from the beginning for him to succeed?
2. Have you ever prayed that your worship and offering would be accepted by God and he would return favor? How do you feel about that? Is this self-serving?
3. In verse 4, whose desires and plans are we talking about here that will be granted? Why will they be granted?
4. Discuss Verse 5 and fulfilling all your petitions"? What is this directly talking about and whose petitions?

Verses 6-9: Verse 6 starts off with the assurance of the deliverance already requested as given! God's actions reflect trust and confidence as if it is a done deal. That is the type of belief and trust we all need in our times of trouble and stress. To believe and live as if it is already done!

Yehwah was assumed to have heard and answered the prayer on the Kings behalf. This Psalm states as a definitive that his appointed will be rescued. What confidence!

This is a prayer of summation based on all that has gone before. God's people are asking and expecting a deliverance from whatever is coming at them and needed!

Psalm 20 is a supreme testament to the sincere belief that the Presence of God will affect the outcome of anything, from the battle of a King to the people's morale. A faith that is alive, a faith that believes and a faith that expects God's will to be delivered and affect the outcome. There is nothing left to chance, nothing on the sidelines, they were all in for God to drive and affect their decisions, actions and life in His will.

Discussion Question:

5. Discuss the Verse 6 faith exhibited? What does that tell you about the people at that time and their relationship with God?
6. What is Verse 7 addressing in David's time? How does that correlate to us today? Personally and as a country?
7. What does Verse 8 tell us about trusting anything other than God? Why then do we continue to "trust" in other things when God's word is so clear?
8. In closing Verse 9, the congregation is asking for what? What part will the king play in delivering God's plan?

III. Responding in Prayer:

1. Pray that God would bring to us a desperation for responding to His "live sent" calling on each of our lives.
2. Ask that God would bring to His church a clearer understanding of what His justice demands as he calls us to do good in the world, to serve others in their need and share the good news of their rescue from sin (Eph. 2:10; Matt. 20:25-28).
3. Pray that God would give Henderson Hills a desperation for prayer and for the nations, and that we would respond to God's call as David did, prepared to act in response.