



Brown CG Zoom Lesson

Discussion Guide

Psalm 21 – August 2, 2020

I. Getting Started:

This Psalm is classified as a “Royal Psalm” with the central theme being the gratitude of King David for the blessings from God. David’s joy, successes, honor and his very life are directly attributed to God. Assurance is expressed that God will deal directly with His enemies, who are also David’s enemies.

This is generally thought of as a hymn of thanksgiving for God’s answer to their petitions raised. As a general continuation of Psalm 20, the context is also one of the order of the worship service. It is purely God’s presence that brings David’s blessings. As you will remember, in our lesson last week, it was also God’s Presence that would inevitably bring him both protection and deliverance for David and God’s people.

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Psalm 21 – A Psalm of David; Rejoice in the Lord

¹ The king rejoices in your strength, Lord. How great is his joy in the victories you give! ² You have granted him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. ³ You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head. ⁴ He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—length of days, for ever and ever. ⁵ Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. ⁶ Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence. ⁷ For the king trusts in the Lord; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken. ⁸ Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies; your right hand will seize your foes. ⁹ When you appear for battle, you will burn them up as in a blazing furnace. The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath, and his fire will consume them. ¹⁰ You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from mankind. ¹¹ Though they plot evil against you and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed. ¹² You will make them turn their backs when you aim at them with drawn bow. ¹³ Be exalted in your strength, Lord; we will sing and praise your might.

Verses 1-7: This is the language spoken by the presiding priest in a worship service of the people. The central theme is the King’s utter dependence upon God.

It is God’s strength that brings David his joy, not anything that he has done or accomplished personally. God’s deliverance is the sole reason that the king is exulted and has splendor and majesty on the throne.

As in last week’s lesson, we also see that David’s heart’s desires were granted and his petitions were not denied.

Discussion Question:

1. In verse 3, what is your take on “He came to meet Him” when referring to David? What did it take for God to “meet someone”?

2. When we read in verse 2 that David's heart desires and requests were granted and not withheld, does this conflict with a sinful soul? How do we reconcile these verses with God's will and plan? Does this mean literally everything was granted?
3. Even with every heart desire being granted, what is it that ultimately brings David his Joy?
4. What is the key point of verse 7? How does this impact our trust and assurance today as we pray to God? Has anything changed?

Verses 8-13: Verse 8 starts off with God effectively dealing with his enemies. The Psalmist is confident that this will take place and has the past history to feel comfortable in the outcome. It is important to note that while this addresses God's enemies, they are presumed to be the same as David's. One heart, one plan, one path in dealing with groups that are against David and God himself.

This is a powerful set of scriptures for those against God and how He will completely annihilate them from the face of the earth. It is very important to note here, that there are specific reasons provided in Verse 11 as to why these are "enemies of God". They have specifically turned their backs against God with deliberate evil and wicked schemes. God is all powerful, sinless and holy. No one will ever prevail against Him or His ways.

Psalms 20 and 21 through the presence and unchanging love provided by God, the kings were privileged to rule as God's adopted ones. While the King's themselves were sometimes accused of forgetting this point, this distinction is often made in Psalms. This can also be viewed as the seeds of the biblical messianic hope and the foundational pillars of the concept of the kingdom of God.

The Presence of God as described in the Old Testament is so important to all Christians throughout time.

Discussion Question:

5. When we read 8-13, what does this tell us about God's wrath? Why does God have wrath anyway?
6. Who is God's wrath targeted against and why?
7. Does God's wrath change over time? In modern times, do we still have this type of wrath observed? Why or why not?
8. How does the truth about God's wrath lead the psalmist to praise Him in verse 13? How should we respond to passages that deal with God's wrath?
9. What are ways we can rejoice in the Lord's strength?