

Psalm 20-21 - A Mirror of Provision and Praise

Psalm 18 – A personal testimony from a king appealing for help and waiting (first person)

Psalm 20 – From someone talking to the King, saying God will Save Him (second person)

- "Thee/You" refer to the person God is delivering
- Vs. 1a – The Lord will hear you.
- Vs. 1b – the Name will defend you. (using the singular of the word)
 - Elsewhere, "the Name" is used as a shorthand for God, as in "the Name" will go before you, etc...
- Vs. 2a – He will send help
- Vs. 2b – He will strengthen you (using the singular)
- Vs. 3a – He will remember your offerings (using the singular)
- Vs. 3b – He will accept your burnt sacrifice (using the singular)

SELAH MOMENT

- Vs. 4 – He will grant you according to your own heart, and fulfil your counsel
 - Compare to God "getting in the way" when you wander from Him
 - Prov. 3:5-6 – you align your heart with God and he'll make things work.
- Vs. 5 – When God comes through, we rejoice in His salvation, we set up banners
- Vs. 5b (same as 4b) - He answers prayer!
- Vs. 6a – When God comes through, I learn that He saves
- Vs. 6b – He will hear and save with strength (using the strong hand!)
- Vs. 7 – Some will trust in physical means, but we'll remember your name (vs. 1b – the thing that you promised will come save us)
- Vs. 8a – they are defeated
- Vs. 8b – We will stand upright.
- Vs. 9 – Lord, hear our petitions (and answer our council)

Pause for a moment - this is a call for help (with assurance it will come); Next will be a celebration for the help that came (and praise to the one who did it)

Psalm 21 – Talking about the deliverance God will bring (third person) - talking back to God

- "Thee/You" refer to God as the deliverer.
- Vs. 1 – The king (who you save) will joy in thy strength, how great will his rejoicing be!?
- Vs. 2 – you gave him his heart's desire (20:4b, 5b) - you fulfilled his counsel and answered his prayers.

SELAH MOMENT

- Vs. 3a – God will go before Him.
 - "prevent" here is an older word that when it was written meant "go before," rather than "stop."
- Vs. 3b – God honors him – crowns are a symbol of authority and honor, as if the victory is won and God hands over the crown.
- Vs. 4 – God gives long life and good life
- Vs. 5 – God gets glory by this, and He deserves honor and glory.
- Vs. 6 – He is blessed forever because God did something, and God's face is what brings gladness.
- Vs. 7 – The king is rewarded for his truth, but ultimately because God is merciful – that's how he's going to stand.
- Vs. 8 – God's hand will search out and find his enemies (that's because He can see the heart), and he'll now use his strong hand to destroy the wicked. The same hand that sustains the good destroys the evil.
 - Vs. 9 – God's wrath will be complete and consuming
 - Vs. 10 – He'll go "root and branch," not leaving anything behind.
- Vs. 11 – They will seek to fight... but won't be able to
 - Vs. 12 – you shall make them flee
 - Vs. 12 – you will take them down as they run.
- Vs. 13 – God will be exalted in his own strength (where they fail in their own strength)
- Vs. 13b – We will praise you because of it!

Why do you think the next Psalm in the sequence is a direct prophecy of Jesus' death?