

- ¹ How the king rejoices in your strength, O LORD!
He shouts with joy because you give him victory.
- ² For you have given him his heart's desire;
you have withheld nothing he requested. *Interlude*
- ³ You welcomed him back with success and prosperity.
You placed a crown of finest gold on his head.
- ⁴ He asked you to preserve his life,
and you granted his request.
The days of his life stretch on forever.
- ⁵ Your victory brings him great honor,
and you have clothed him with splendor and majesty.
- ⁶ You have endowed him with eternal blessings
and given him the joy of your presence.
- ⁷ For the king trusts in the LORD.
The unfailing love of the Most High will keep him from stumbling.
- ⁸ You will capture all your enemies.
Your strong right hand will seize all who hate you.
- ⁹ You will throw them in a flaming furnace
when you appear.
The LORD will consume them in his anger;
fire will devour them.
- ¹⁰ You will wipe their children from the face of the earth;
they will never have descendants.
- ¹¹ Although they plot against you,
their evil schemes will never succeed.
- ¹² For they will turn and run
when they see your arrows aimed at them.
- ¹³ Rise up, O LORD, in all your power.
With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.

Introduction

This is probably the praise hymn that David and his army sang after the victory that they had prayed for in Psalm 20.

David had prayed for specific blessings, and God had granted them.

The hymn opens and closes with praise for **God's strength** which was granted to David and his army. (v. 1, & 13)

All answers to prayer should be acknowledged by **sincere praise to God**, because He is the one who is able to **change people and situations for His glory.**

As we go through this Psalm it will be helpful to look at it from **three levels.**

The first level is concerning **David** as he fights a physical battle with his enemies.

The second level has to do with **Jesus Christ**, who comes as the "**Warrior King**", taking David's throne, doing battle with demonic powers who hold this world captive.

Jesus comes to cast out the "ruler of this world".

John 12: v. 27-32. – N.K.J.

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."

²⁹Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

³⁰Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³²And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.”

The third level has to do with a **Christian believer**.

We share in the victories with Jesus as we overcome our own spiritual battles in life.

The Psalm can be divided up into three sections.

The first section deals with the past and God’s answer to David’s prayer from Psalm 20.

(v. 1-7)

The second section deals with the future and what God is going to do through David.

(v. 8-12)

The final section deals with exaltation and praise to God for his mighty power. (v.13)

1. Answer to David’s Prayer. (Past victory) – v. 1-7.

We can connect v.2 in Psalm 21 with verse 4 in Psalm 20.

In Psalm 20: v.4 David had prayed for his **heart’s desire**, and in Psalm 21: v.2 David was **given his heart’s desire**.

In Psalm 21 v. 4 David said that he asked God to preserve his life, and God granted his request.

The blessing that God was pouring out upon David was in connection with the covenant that God had made with him.

2 Samuel 7: v. 1-17.

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, ²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.”

³Then Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you.”

⁴But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, ⁵“Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? ⁶For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ’ ⁸Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. ¹⁰Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, ¹¹since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

¹²“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’ ’

¹⁷According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

We know from 1 Samuel Chapter 16 v. 1-13 that God chose David, a young shepherd boy, because of the **condition of his heart.**

His outward appearance may not have been very attractive, and he was very young, doing quite a lowly job as a shepherd.

However, David had a heart after God.

David made mistakes, but underneath in his heart, David wanted to do God's will.

God did not bless David for who he was or what he did.

God blessed David for two main reasons.

Firstly, because David had a **good heart wanting God's will and God's Glory for God's people.**

Secondly because **God had made a covenant with David** to bless him and his family line.

This is a very important point which applies to us today if we are trusting in the New Testament Covenant that God has made through His son Jesus Christ.

We will come to this point in a moment.

So the first layer is David praising God for answer to prayer.

The second layer concerns Jesus Christ.

Where do we see Jesus in v. 1-7?

In v.1 David greatly rejoiced in **God's Salvation.**

Today we greatly rejoice in the Salvation that God offers to each one of us through Jesus.

When you very sincerely pray to God for Salvation through Jesus Christ, then God is very pleased to answer that prayer, because of the **covenant** that He has made for your **Salvation**, through Jesus Christ.

Once you become a Christian, through what Jesus has done for you, you are the **most blessed person in the world.**

God will be **determined to bless you, because of Jesus.**

Firstly, God has already blessed you, by saving you from the **penalty of your sin.**

You will not be eternally punished for your sin.

We all deserve God's punishment for our sin.

It is all of **God's GRACE** to even be able to receive His love and forgiveness through Jesus.

Secondly, God wants to bless us by dealing with the **pollution of sin** in our lives.

As we read the Bible, God's word and as we **obey the Holy Spirit**, God cleanses our lives from the pollution that has built up over many years.

Yes! We can have the **victory over the pollution of sin in our lives** if we let God's word, and God's Holy Spirit cleanse our lives.

Thirdly we can have the victory over the **power of sin** in our lives.

Even as a Christian, **the devil fights hard to bind us, or hold us back.** Sometimes it can be by returning to past sins, or not being able to overcome habits that controlled our lives in the past.

When we cry out to God, we can have the victory over the power of sin in our lives.

Sometimes it can be a **real battle as we cry to God in prayer** and stand on the promise of His word.

However, victory is possible by **faith in the word of God, and with the help of the power of His Holy Spirit.**

God is determined to bless His people because of Jesus.

There is nothing special about us but there is something wonderful about Jesus and the victory that He obtained, through His death on a cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, He gained the victory over the penalty of sin, because He suffered our penalty, instead of us. He was a substitute sacrifice, on our behalf.

2 Corinthians Chapter 5: v. 17-21 in N.L.T.

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for

Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

1 John 1: v. 5-9. In N.K.J.

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we overcome the battles in our Christian life we share the victory with Jesus. Because Jesus overcame, we can be "overcomers" in our Christian life.

2. Future victories and answers to prayer in David's life. v. 8-12.

David is now talking about the future victories that God will produce on his behalf.

Notice the word **YOU** and **YOUR** being used at least **6 times**.

David is now focusing upon what **God is going to do Himself in the future**.

We need to remember that David spent most of his life either running away from Saul who was trying to kill him, or fighting physical battles to protect God's people from enemy armies.

We need to note the words "**God's right hand**" in v.8.

God's right hand is more than a symbol of power. It actively works for His people and brings defeats for His enemies.

Psalm 89: v. 13 in N.K.J.

¹³You have a mighty arm;
Strong is Your hand, *and* high is Your right hand.

Psalm 118: v. 15-16 in N.K.J.

¹⁵The voice of rejoicing and salvation
is in the tents of the righteous;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

Deut. 5: v.15 in N.K.J.

¹⁵And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

The Hebrew word which is translated "find" in the English Bible is actually a word that means more than just find. It means to dispose of.

In v. 9 David has the faith and confidence that God will swallow up and devour his enemies.

In v. 11 David says "**they intended evil against YOU.**"

In other words, all attacks against David and his men, were actually attacks against God Himself.

David so aligns himself with God and His purposes that he knows that **God is going to feel the attack personally.**

If you are a Father or a Mother and somebody hurts your child, then you will feel the pain too. The reason is that you love your child. God loves His children too.

If anybody attacks his children, it hurts Him too!

David was never aggressive in his attacks upon his enemies. He was always defending himself and had to fight to protect himself and his army.

Remember in 2 Samuel chapter 7: v.16 that God had promised that David's family line would be established forever.

Therefore, God had to protect David for the sake of his covenant promise to him.

If you study the life of David in 1&2 Samuel, you will notice that God gave David many victories in his battles.

On the next level, **where does Jesus get involved in any future battles that might take place in this world?**

The first thing that we need to understand is that as Christian believers we are not fighting physical battles in this world.

If Christians were fighting physical battles today, then many Christians who are killed every year around the world, just for being Christians would be losing that battle.

Why is it that Jesus allows so many Christians to be killed in Muslim countries around the world today?

Why is it that God does not give them victory?

I will tell you the reason.

God has already given them the victory!

The greatest enemy that we all face is **DEATH**, and every believer that dies or is killed by an enemy will one day be raised from the dead, receive a new body which will live forever and live in a perfect world, with no enemies.

Revelation 21: v. 1-8. In N.K.J.

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

⁶And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

1 Corinthians 15: v. 20-28 in N.K.J. (underline v.26 in bold type)

²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶**The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.** ²⁷For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Before we leave this section, I just want to say one thing about future battles that God will fight on behalf of His children.

The God of the Bible is all powerful, all knowing and present everywhere.

If it is God's will to protect one of His children from death for His sovereign purposes, He will do that.

(Psalm 31: v.15 – N.K.J.)

¹⁵ My times *are* in Your hand;
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
And from those who persecute me.

Although there are many stories from Missionaries today about God’s protection for their lives, for security reasons, because we go on the internet, I am not going to repeat these stories here, but the most encouraging ones are found in the Bible.

(2 Kings 6: v. 8-19 in N.L.T.)

⁸ When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, “We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place.”

⁹ But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, “Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there.” ¹⁰ So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there.

¹¹ The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, “Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?”

¹² “It’s not us, my lord the king,” one of the officers replied. “Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!”

¹³ “Go and find out where he is,” the king commanded, “so I can send troops to seize him.”

And the report came back: “Elisha is at Dothan.” ¹⁴ So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha.

¹⁶ “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!” The LORD opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

¹⁸ As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, “O LORD, please make them blind.” So the LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked.

¹⁹ Then Elisha went out and told them, “You have come the wrong way! This isn’t the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to the city of Samaria.

3. **Exaltation & Praise to God for His mighty power and strength. – v. 13.**

When David fought battles and won victories, it was not to exalt himself but to magnify the Lord. The people who followed David knew that he was doing it all for the glory of God.

1 Samuel 2: v.30.

³⁰ Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

Very early on in David’s life he showed the same spirit in honouring and acknowledging God as the person who wins battles and fights for his people.

1 Samuel 17: v. 33-51. In N.L.T.

³³ “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

³⁴ But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶ I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living

God! ³⁷The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”

³⁸ Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. ³⁹ David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. ⁴⁰ He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

⁴¹ Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, ⁴² sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ⁴³ “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!⁴⁷ And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

⁴⁸ As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. ⁵¹ Then David ran over and pulled Goliath’s sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

Application

1. When God answers prayer in our lives, for whatever purpose, we must make sure that God gets ALL of the praise and Glory for His might work.
We must not take any credit for what God does!
2. God wants to bless His children with victory in their personal lives. Our greatest enemy is death and Jesus won the victory over death, so that one day, we will be raised from the dead. We will have a different body and a different life. It will be an eternal life, living in a different body fit for eternity. We need to be encouraged about our own resurrection. This life is only temporary, but eternal life is forever.
3. Finally, there is a big challenge today for people who are not Christians yet.
It is only through Jesus that you can obtain the victory over death, and receive forgiveness of your sins. If you feel prompting in your heart to ask Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and you are willing for the cost of being a disciple of Jesus, please come to the lift sign after the service. The God of the Bible is waiting for you to come.