

**TRUTH B-P CHURCH**  
**Adults Sunday School**

**PSALM 20 – THE LORD HEARS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**“To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.”** David is a man of war. Before he became king, the only enemy are those wild beasts such as lions and bears which attacked his sheep. Now that he has become king, his enemies are those who go against God and His people.

The whole point in this psalm is the focus on how the Lord hears His own. Indeed God is gracious and merciful to hear His own children when they need Him and especially when they trust in His protection. Truly the Lord is greatly to be praised for He hears His own.

**II. BECAUSE YOU NEED HIM**

**Verse 1, “The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;”**

He is called the LORD, and this brings to remembrance the covenant which He graciously made with His people. And because of such a relationship that existed between God and His people, how will He not hear them? And especially when the Lord knew that they need Him. The word “hear” means to pay attention or give an answer. What a great comfort to know that this is the way God is hearing us. He is already paying attention to us even before we cried out to Him. And it is not just in the day of trouble that God will hear us, but all the time. Such an assurance of God giving His ear to hear us in the day of trouble would strengthen our faith even more.

The name of God is powerful. It is not an ordinary name. God's name represents Him exactly who He is and what He will do. And in this case here, the psalmist refers to God as the God of Jacob. This is significant because it refers to a period when Jacob was not named Israel yet. It was to an individual person and in particular to the period when Jacob was not even a believer yet. This tells us that God has already taken notice of His people even before they came to know Him personally. God has been watching over them and defending them from their enemies all this while. They clearly need Him even though they may not even realize it. And God knew they need Him.

**Verse 2, “Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;”**

There is definitely no temple yet at the time of writing, for the temple will only come into existence during the reign of Solomon. The sanctuary here must refer to the temporal tabernacle which begins its existence after God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel through Moses. For most time, the tabernacle was located in Kadesh during the wilderness journey. However after the successful conquest led by Joshua in the land of promise, the tabernacle was first located at Gilgal, and then moved to Shiloh. And there, the people worshipped God through the blood sacrifices they laid on the altar.

For God to send help from the sanctuary means that God has accepted their worship and heard their cry for help. This is synonymous parallelism. Zion is Jerusalem. And it is likely to refer to the ark which was transported to Jerusalem by David. The ark represents the presence of God in the midst of His people. It is God's strength and perseverance that is stressed here. Without God's strength, there would be no power at all to continue and fight the battle of faith.

**Verse 3, “Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.”**

This is an encouragement to all true worshippers who come before the presence of God to worship Him. To know that their offerings and sacrifices are all remembered and accepted by God is most comforting and satisfying. Can you imagine if your offerings are forgotten and rejected? How disappointing it would be! But God is good. He sees the pure hearts of the true worshippers behind all these offerings and sacrifices for Him and He accepted them.

The word “selah” means to pause. This is commonly found in poetry literature, especially when there is music accompaniment. The reason for pausing can also be for reflection purposes. There is no hard and fast rule whether to read out or be silent when it comes to this word. Since “selah” is also part of the inspired writings, it is good to read it aloud. We do not wish the scenario to happen when some read and some don't.

**Verse 4, “Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.”**

What a good God we have! God honours those who honour Him. When we have approached God according to His revealed will in humility and obedience, He will bless us. God is pleased to bless His children and grant them the desire of their heart. Whatever plan they have, God made sure they will succeed.

God will definitely answer the prayers of His children when they prayed according to His will. This requires much diligence in the study of God's Word in order for us to know God's will. If we do not know God's will, how are we going to pray for His will to be done? In the end, it will be our will that we pray to Him. And God will not answer such prayers.

**III. BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO HIM**

**Verse 5, “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.”**

God's will is made known only to those who belong to Him. In other words, it is those who are saved whom God will hear since they knew Him. What great rejoicing that will be because we belong to Him! We could have been left by ourselves in the world still condemned in our sins and heading towards hell. But God turned us around and saved us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Now that we belong to Him, how can we not rejoice in the great salvation we are enjoying ?

Banners are victorious signs raised before the enemies and finally installed in the defeated enemies' territory. And the psalmist knew that it is God who can and will give them the victory. Indeed without God, there is no victory. All glory be to God. For it is the LORD who will fulfill all their petitions.

**Verse 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.”**

This is a little conclusion to what the psalmist believes what God will do to those who belong to Him. He says, “Now know I,” this is due to the experiential knowledge that enabled the psalmist to know that God will deliver His own. His “anointed” is not directed to anyone specific but to all true believers who are saved and redeemed by the blood of Christ. Anyone who has put their faith in Christ is rightly the Lord's anointed. Salvation includes God giving strength and wisdom to His children to overcome the difficulties in their journey of faith.

The word “hear” is the same appeared in verse 1, referring to God giving His undivided attention and answer to His anointed. When they approach Him with clean hand and a pure heart, He is pleased to empower them with the necessary strength that they need to overcome their problems. God's right hand refers to His position of power and authority that empowered His people to press on all the way to the end, and not give up easily.

#### **IV. BECAUSE YOU TRUST IN HIM**

##### **Verse 7, “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”**

This verse is antithetical parallelism. Chariots and horses were the powerful weapons and tools of destruction in those days. Those who possessed them will count on them to win the war victoriously. And this is without a doubt. Therefore whether a nation will fall or rise depends heavily on the strengthen in both quantity as well as quality of their chariots and horses. But for a child of God, his trust is not in men or anything of this world but God and Him alone. The psalmist says with confidence, “... but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Just the name alone is all that we need to win the war. Remembering God's name is significant because God revealed Himself to us through His name. Moreover the knowledge of one's name brings us closer to Him and in this case here, it is God whom we are drawing close to. Therefore the remembrance here is more than just a memory kept in the mind or heart, but the complete trust in Him who is able to deliver us from all troubles.

##### **Verse 8, “They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.”**

Those who trust in chariots and horses are not invincible. They can be brought down easily and fall in the end. But for those who trust in God, the promise is to them that they will never fall. The psalmist declared, “... but we are risen, and stand upright.” To stand with God makes the difference. We will never fall. Instead we will rise and stand without wavering. The contrast of victory and defeat is clear. Therefore it is a matter of choice. Which one will you choose? The answer is obvious. However, those who are blinded enough will never choose God because their eyes have been covered in sin and wickedness. Only those whose eyes were opened will rise and stand upright with God all the way to the end.

##### **Verse 9, “Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.”**

Trust is placing our hope in Him whom we believe with all our heart, soul and mind. God is just a prayer away. All we need to do is to simply open our mouth and cry out to Him. Instantly, it gets through and God is already on the other line. It will never be disengaged, or disconnected.

This is the final plea: “Save, LORD.” Our life is indeed in God's hand. Our enemies have no power over our death date and also the way how we are going to die. Life and death is up to God to dispense, for He is God.

We know that as long as live, we have work to do until the Lord calls us Home. This work is to be done for God. And that is the only reason why we pray such a prayer for God to save us. If we want salvation because we want to enjoy life by eating, drinking and be merry, then our prayer will not be heard. If that's the case, why pray in the first place? Unless you have been taught the wrong doctrine that leads you to a false Christ and that makes your prayer unacceptable before God. Do not be deceived. Know your Bible well and know who Christ is to you. He is none other than your King and He will hear you when you call Him rightly. Let us remember this in our heart always. May God help us. Amen.