

Spiritual Preparation for the Battle¹
Psalm 20

<p style="text-align: center;">1 מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 יַעֲנֵךְ יְהוָה בְּיוֹם צָרָה וְשִׁנְבֶךָ שֵׁם אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 וְשִׁלַּח-עֲזָרָה מִמִּקְדָּשׁ וּמִצִּיּוֹן יִסְעָדֶךָ :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 יִזְכֹּר כָּל-מִנְחֹתֶיךָ וְעוֹלֹתֶיךָ יִרְשָׁנָה סֵלָה :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 וַתֵּן-לָּךְ כְּלָבֶבְךָ וְכָל-עֲצָתֶךָ יִמְלֵא :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 נִרְנְנָה בִּישׁוּעֹתֶיךָ וּבשֵׁם-אֱלֹהֵינוּ נִדְגַל יִמְלֵא יְהוָה כָּל-מִשְׁאֲלוֹתֶיךָ :</p>	<p>A psalm by David.</p> <p>1 May I AM answer you in the day of distress! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!</p> <p>2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and from Zion give you support!</p> <p>3 May he remember all your [grain] offerings and regard with favor² your burnt sacrifices! <i>Selah</i></p> <p>4 May he give you according to your heart and fulfill all your plans!</p> <p>5 May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May I AM fulfill all your petitions!</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #4a86e8; font-size: small;">CENTER OF THE PSALM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7 עֲתָה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי הוֹשִׁיעַ יְהוָה מְשִׁיחֹו יַעֲנֵהוּ מִשָּׁמַיִם קְדוֹשׁוֹ בְּגִבּוֹרֹת יִשַׁע יְמִינוֹ :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 אֵלֶּה בָרֶכֶב וְאֵלֶּה בַּסּוּסִים וְאֵנַחְנוּ בְּשֵׁם-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ נִזְכִּיר :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 הֵמָּה כָּרְעוּ וְנָפְלוּ וְאֵנַחְנוּ קָמְנוּ וְנִתְעוֹדָד :</p>	<p>6 Now I know that I AM saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heavens with the saving might of his right hand.</p> <p>7 These — in chariots and these — in horses, but we— the name of I AM our God invoke. <small>ie. “cause God to remember us”</small></p> <p>8 They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise and stand firm.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10 יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעַ הַמֶּלֶךְ יַעֲנֵנוּ בְּיוֹם-קְרָאתֵנוּ :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21.1 לְמַנְצִיחַ</p>	<p>9 I AM, save the king! Answer us on the day we call.</p> <p>21:1 For the director of music.</p>

¹ Psalm 20 is a prayer for the king prior to battle; in Ps 21 he comes home victorious offering a praise of thanksgiving.

² “regard with favor” – Here the pi. שָׁן carries the sense of the sacrifice being regarded as of a fatling.

Spiritual Preparation for the Battle¹

Psalm 20

<p>A psalm by David.</p> <p>1 May I AM answer you in the day of distress!</p> <p> May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!</p> <p>2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!</p> <p>3 May he remember all your [grain] offerings and regard with favor² your burnt sacrifices! <i>Selah</i></p> <p>4 May he give you according to your heart and fulfill all your plans!</p> <p>5 May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!</p> <p> May I AM fulfill all your petitions!</p>	<p>I. Petitions for the king by the army</p> <p>CENTER OF THE PSALM</p>
<p>6 Now I know that I AM saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heavens with the saving might of his right hand.</p> <p>7 These — in chariots and these — in horses, but we— the name of I AM our God invoke.</p> <p>8 They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise and stand firm.</p>	<p>II. Confidence that God has heard</p>
<p>9 I AM, save the king! Answer us on the day we call.</p> <p>21:1 For the director of music.</p>	<p>III. Concluding petition for victory</p>

¹ Psalm 20 is a prayer for the king prior to battle; in Ps 21 he comes home victorious offering a praise of thanksgiving.

² “regard with favor” – Here the pi. יָרָא carries the sense of the sacrifice being regarded as of a fatling.

Jehoshaphat Follows Pattern of Psalm 20

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

I. The Threat of the Enemies

1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

II. Jehoshaphat Leads the Nation in Prayer

3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek I AM, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah assembled to seek help from I AM; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek I AM.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of I AM, before the new court, 6 and said, "I AM, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'

10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy—11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

III. Confidence: A Levite Prophesies Victory

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before I AM, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 And the Spirit of I AM came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says I AM to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of I AM on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and I AM will be with you."

IV. Corporate Worship: Response of Praise

18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before I AM, worshiping I AM. 19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise I AM, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

V. Preparation for the Battle: Praising God by Faith for the Victory

20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in I AM your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to I AM and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,

**"Give thanks to I AM,
for his steadfast love endures forever."**

VI. The Battle: God's Holy War

22 And when they began to sing and praise, I AM set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

VII. Taking the Spoil

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. 25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much.

VIII. Praise for victory

26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed I AM. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for I AM had made them rejoice over their enemies. 28 They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of I AM. 29 And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that I AM had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.