

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 20:1-9 (NASB)

¹ May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you *securely* on high!

² May He send you help from the sanctuary And support you from Zion!

³ May He remember all your meal offerings And find your burnt offering acceptable! Selah.

⁴ May He grant you your heart's desire And fulfill all your counsel!

⁵ We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

⁶ Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.

⁷ Some *boast* in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.

⁸ They have bowed down and fallen, But we have risen and stood upright.

⁹ Save, O LORD; May the King answer us in the day we call.

Psalm 20: God is Always With Us

The Israelites fought many wars and David wrote this psalm for the people to sing during times of war. The people prayed that God would hear the prayers of their king and accept his sacrifices. They prayed that God would fulfill all the king's petitions. They sang of displaying their special war banners made to glorify the Lord their God. They sang that while their enemies trusted in their chariots, they trusted in God's name alone ([verse 7](#)). Because of this, God defeated the enemy. God's help in battle always brings strength and victory over the enemy.

Patriotism and **religious devotion** are mentioned often in the Bible. All of the prophets from Moses to Malachi, over a period of fifteen hundred years, were preachers of righteousness and were also patriots. They loved God and loved their country, and they were very much involved in times of national danger.

Patriotism has both ethical and spiritual roots. It involves the moral ideal which is in subjection to the sovereignty of law and the command of righteousness. A regard for law means reverence and love for God. Because of our position in Christ, we have confidence to set up and wave our banners in His name. Victory in the name of the Lord is the inheritance of His people. The world, death, Satan, and sin will be defeated. Those who rely on an arm of flesh will be ashamed and defeated.

As you read [Psalm 20](#), it might be good to analyze upon whom you rely. Do you expect God to "**defend**" you? Do you depend on Him? Do you know victory in Jesus over sin in your life? Do you set up the Lord's banner ([verse 5](#)) knowing that He answers

Bible Study: THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

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prayer? Is God's right hand strong enough upon which to rely ([verse 6](#))? Is it easier for you to trust in modern day "**horses and chariots**" such as financial security, status, and your own efforts rather than on God?