

## PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

### Psalm 21:1-13 (NASB)

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice!
- <sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.
- <sup>3</sup> For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on his head.
- <sup>4</sup> He asked life of You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever.
- <sup>5</sup> His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him.
- <sup>6</sup> For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence.
- <sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken.
- <sup>8</sup> Your hand will find out all your enemies; Your right hand will find out those who hate you.
- <sup>9</sup> You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them.
- <sup>10</sup> Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men.
- <sup>11</sup> Though they intended evil against You *And* devised a plot, They will not succeed.
- <sup>12</sup> For You will make them turn their back; You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces.
- <sup>13</sup> Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.

### Psalm 21: Triumph of the King

In Psalm 20, the people intercede for their king. They pray that the Lord “*grant you according to your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your purpose*” (Psalm 20:4).

In this Psalm 21, they can say with thanksgiving to God, “*You have given him his heart’s desire.*” God had given David a victory over his enemies. David wrote this psalm not so much for his own use, but for his people. It is a national anthem celebrating the majesty and glory that God had bestowed upon David their king. The confidence expressed in David’s future was based on God’s strength and mercy upon David as he trusted in Him.

What joy enthuses this psalm! Good things have happened and God is given glory. It is interesting to note that the earthly king is not worshiped. It is rather God who is worshiped and thus crowns the earthly king.

The picture in [verse 3](#) is of God “**meeting**” the king, sending blessing, and giving even more than is asked. What a fitting picture of God’s love to us, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us ([Romans 5:8](#)).

How often we forget the truth of this psalm, that God is the one who defeats our enemies. [Verses 8–12](#) express confidences that God will deal with those who oppose His king. Is it any less true that God will deal with enemies you have today? We may actually hinder God’s arm when we attempt to do in our puny strength what He alone can do—defeat enemies. Ask great things of God! He is a great God! Then sing His praises!