

The Ultimate Source of Help

Isaiah 31

Some trust in chariots, some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God (Ps 20:7).

- I. Trust God's _____ (1-5).
 - A. Because of impending _____ (1-3)
 - B. Because of promised _____ (4-5)
- II. Turn to God's _____ (6-9).

Many times God simply acts out of inexplicable divine grace that fits his eternal plans and his present purposes. No rational explanation is available; but a proper response is appropriate. When God stretches out his hand to carry out his gracious will, people need to humbly bow and acknowledge where their help has come from.

God's wise decisions are sometimes hard to understand, especially when they involve both punishment and protection. One might assume that there would always be clear-cut winners and losers, but frequently in conflict situations both sides have sinned and both sides receive some measure of grace. God may function as a lion that captures his prey (his punishment of Judah), but also as a lion that protects his prey from others (31:4-5). His grace may shield, deliver, and rescue one sinful group in the midst of judgment or bring the fire of his fierce wrath against another sinful group without any hint of grace (31:8-9). Grace is not earned or deserved; yet God richly provides hope for some through acts of divine intervention. Even the Assyrian soldiers who survived God's destruction of their army had the opportunity to respond positively to the experience of seeing the powerful hand of God at work. By grace they had survived to tell the story about God's defeat of the most powerful army in the world. Everyone who knows about the work of God has the opportunity of glorifying his name by telling others about his great deeds.