

## **A Prayer for God to Save the King (Psalm 20)**

- Psalm 20 differs from other Psalms we've studied: focus plural "we" not I or me
- Psalm 20 and 21 are similar in this sense: we will shout, we will call, we will sing
- It would also seem like the 1<sup>st</sup> stanza (1-5) uttered by the people for the king
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza (6-8) uttered by a person: priest assuring the people of answered prayer
- Last petition: spoken by people: farewell petition for the king marching to war (9)

### **I. Intercession for the King**

- Vs. 1-5 *prayer for a king*. Yet strictly speaking they are words spoken to the king
- Key word 'may' occurs x6: v1 'May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!'
- *May* he send you help from sanctuary (2) *May* he remember all your offerings (3)
- *May* he grant you your heart's desire (4) *May* we shout for joy over your salvation
- A picture of the king emerges: a) He is a man of prayer b) and religiously devout

### **II. A Nation under God (practical example)**

- In light of this psalm, America began as a nation with many godly men like this
- Not all were godly, but there were many who sought God's face & direction
- Result: Constitution that became a monument of freedom & inspiration for many
- Today it is hard to point to men of this caliber who understand their need of God

### **III. The King Is Assured of Success**

- The second stanza is spoken in the first person singular: king himself or a priest
- It is an assurance: God will hear and answer His people when they seek Him
- Vs 7 - heart of psalm: comparison of Israel to pagan nations that trust themselves
- Israel lost this distinction and under Solomon became like their pagan neighbors
- Deut 7:16 warned Israel not to put their hope in these things. They started well
- Israel's experience was God's powerful deliverance: Abraham, Moses, Joshua
- Moses' song reflects God's deliverance (Ex 15:1,2). Joshua: the walls of Jericho
- Gideon's defeat of the Midianites with a handful of men, David & Goliath
- God has done this for other countries who have trusted Him and sought his help

### **IV. A Summary Petition (9)**

- Here is an Old Testament text, urging us to pray for the authorities God gives us
- Its New Testament equivalent is found in 1 Timothy 2: 1-3 to pray for our leaders
- Ps. 110: 1-4; Jer 23: 5-6; Matt 28: 18- Christ is our hope for years to come