

Psalm 20 “Song of the Interceding Christ”

SUBJECT. We have before us a National Anthem, fitted to be sung at the outbreak of war, when the monarch was girding on his sword for the fight. If David had not been vexed with wars, we might never have been favoured with such psalms as this. There is a needs be for the trials of one saint, that he may yield consolation to others. A happy people here plead for a beloved sovereign, and with loving hearts cry to Jehovah, “God save the King.” We gather that this song was intended to be sung in public, not only from the matter of the song, but also from its dedication “To the Chief Musician.” We know its author to have been Israel’s sweet singer, from the short title, “A Psalm of David.” The particular occasion which suggested it, it would be mere folly to conjecture, for Israel was almost always at war in David’s day. His sword may have been hacked, but it was never rusted. Kimchi (Joseph Kimhi, 1105-1170 AD) reads the title, concerning David, or, for David, and it is clear that the king is the subject as well as the composer of the song. It needs but a moment’s reflection to perceive that this hymn of prayer is prophetic of our Lord Jesus, and is the cry of the ancient church on behalf of her Lord, as she sees him in vision enduring a great fight of afflictions on her behalf. The militant people of God, with the great Captain of salvation at their head, may still in earnest plead that the pleasure of the Lord may prosper in his hand. We shall endeavour to keep to this view of the subject in our brief exposition, but we cannot entirely restrict our remarks to it.

C. H. Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*



Christ in the Psalm

Prophecy of Christ’s Crucifixion, **vv1-4**

Praise for Christ’s Salvation, **vv5-8**

Plea for Christ’s Intercession, **v9**

Psalm 20:1-4, Prophecy of Christ's Crucifixion

v1a, Christ's arrest & crucifixion.

v1b, Christ's trust & consideration; **Jer 30:7** (KJV) *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*

v2, Christ's strength & confidence from heaven; **Lk 22:43-44** (ESV) *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

v3, Christ's reflection: **Matt 26:** (ESV) *Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."*

v4, His submission: Father's will; **Jn 6:38** (ESV) *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

Psalm 20:5-8, Praise for Christ's Salvation

v5, acknowledging the grace of God in Christ

v6, assuredness in the power of God in Christ

v7, apprehension of the supremacy of God in Christ

v8, appreciation of the imputation of God in Christ

Psalm 20:9, Plea for Christ's Intercession

Heb 7:25 (ESV) *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*