



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 13 August 2023
#3 Psalm 20

The Psalm's Original Use

Psalm 20 is written as a Liturgy – a Form of written prayers and responses.

Here the liturgy was written specifically for use by the commanders and soldiers as a spiritual preparation for the battle ahead.

Part 1 – Praying for David Part 2 – Supporting David Part 3 – Declaring their Confidence in God

Please read Psalm 20

1. How would the use of this liturgy help the troops spiritually prepare for the battle ahead?

Applying the Psalm for Our Use Today

The French Theologian John Calvin wrote, *“The occasion of its’ composition at first may have arisen from some particular battle which was about to be fought, either against the Ammonites, or against some other enemies of Israel. But the clear design of the Holy Spirit, in my judgment, was to deliver to the Church a form of prayer, a liturgy, which can be used to pray and intercede for The Lord’s People in every generation – as they face a daily battle against their spiritual foe.”*

Please read – Ephesians 6.10-12, 18-19; John 17.14-15

PRAYING FOR THE LORD’S PEOPLE

*Ps 20. 1 May the Lord **answer** you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob **protect** you.*

*2 May he send you **help** from the sanctuary and grant you **support** from Zion (God’s People).*

2. How does the evil one attack the Lord’s People, and how does praying for the Lord’s People in this way help in the spiritual battle?
3. What does it mean to pray in the Name of God – Father, Son, Spirit? (see John 17.11; Ex 34.5-8)

SUPPORTING THE LORD’S PEOPLE

Ps 20. 5 We will shout for joy over your victory, and raise our banners in the name of the Lord.

4. How might your small group anticipate and celebrate answered prayers like this?

DECLARING CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Ps. 20. 6-8

Romans 8. 28- 37 In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

5. Why is it vitally important in the daily spiritual battle to declare our confidence in the Lord?
6. What has most impacted you from this sermon and study? How will it impact your prayer life?