

God Save the King!

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 20

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Praying for our Rulers (cf. 1 Tim 2:1-2; Ps 2:10-12)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

One of our callings as the people of God is to learn how to pray for those who have rule over us – particularly those who hold offices of civil authority. We pray that there may be peace and stability, in order that godliness and the worship of God may flourish. Why pray this way? Because we want even kings and those who are in authority to come to the knowledge of the _____.

II. Troubled Times

A. God Save the King! (1-4 cf. 18:50; 21:1)

Therefore, when we sing Psalm 20, we are primarily praying for those who have the _____ over us; secondarily praying for all those who find themselves in times of trouble. So what does David teach us to pray? There are five basic petitions:

1. Hear the king's prayers! (v. 1a, 5c)
2. Protect the king's person! (v. 1b cf. Prov 18:10)
3. Strengthen the king's resolve (unto righteousness - sanctuary)! (v. 2)
4. Recall the king's faithful worship! (v. 3)
5. Crown the king's plans with success! (v. 4)

This is the way a _____ people pray for a _____ king who is in trouble.

B. God's Certainly Shall! (5-6)

When we pray this prayer, we do not pray in vain – we pray in _____. We know that there is a God in heaven who hears!

While this confidence points ultimately to the promises that God has made to Jesus, it is appropriate even in times when we're praying for a ruler who is a mere type of Christ. For if that ruler is defending the cause of righteousness and justice, then God will not fail to vindicate him and those who rally to him.

C. So We Will Trust the Lord! (7-9)

Those who trust in the Lord, who practice righteousness and justice, shall be exalted while those who trust in their military might will be brought low. Might does not make right. Justice rules over all.

III. Application

A. Lessons for Citizens

1. Pray

- Hear the king's prayers! (v. 1a, 5c)
- Protect the king's person! (v. 1b cf. Prov 18:10)
- Strengthen the king's resolve (unto righteousness - sanctuary)! (v. 2)
- Recall the king's faithful worship! (v. 3)
- Crown the king's plans with success! (v. 4)

2. Defend Righteous Causes

B. Lessons for Rulers

All earthly rulers are a _____, a picture, of Christ. As such, every earthly ruler is accountable to Christ. Even as every marriage is a picture, a type, of the relationship between Christ and His Church, so every ruler is a picture of the ultimate Ruler, Jesus. Jesus takes the picture that each ruler paints seriously.

C. The Glory of Christ

1. During the time of his humiliation (cf. Heb 5:7)
2. During the time of his exaltation

IV. Conclusion