

PSALM 20:1-9

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"The glorious power of God defended and preserved the Lord Jesus through the battle of His life and death."

(Ps. 20:1) May **the name of the God of Jacob defend thee**, or, —Set you in a high place. The glorious power of God defended and preserved the Lord Jesus through the battle of His life and death. It exalted Him above all His enemies. Only the eternal arm of our covenant God can defend the soldiers of the cross and set them on high out of the reach of their foes. The day of trouble is not over; the pleading Savior is not silent; the name of the God of Israel is still the defense of the faithful.

The name **God of Jacob** is suggestive. Jacob had his day of trouble; he wrestled, was heard, was defended, and in due time was set on high. His God is our God; He is the same God to all His wrestling Jacobs. The entire verse is a blessing to be pronounced by a gracious heart over a child, a friend, or a minister who is facing a trial. It includes both temporal and spiritual protection and directs the mind to the great Source of all good. How delightful to believe that our heavenly Father has pronounced this blessing on us.

(Ps. 20:7) **Some trust in chariots, and some in horses.** Chariots and horses make an imposing show; they rattle, raise dust, and have such fine saddles and co-

vers that vain people are taken with them. The discerning eye of faith, however, sees more in an invisible God. The most dreaded military engine of David's day was the war chariot. Armed with scythes that mowed people down like grass, it was the boast and glory of the neighboring nations. Yet the saints considered Jehovah's name a far better defense. Since the Israelites did not keep horses, to regard the enemy's Calvary with dread was natural. It is all the greater evidence of faith that the bold songster disdains even the horses of Egypt in comparison with the Lord of hosts.

(Ps. 20:8) **They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.**

How different the end of those whose trusts are different! God's enemies are uppermost at first, but before long they are brought down by force or fall of their own accord. Their foundation is rotten, and when the time comes it gives way. Their chariots are burned, and their horses die of pestilence. Where is their boasted strength? As for those who rest on Jehovah, they are often cast down, but an Almighty arm lifts them. Jesus' victory is His people's inheritance. The world, death, Satan, and sin will all be trampled under

the feet of the champions of faith; those
who rely on an arm of flesh will be
ashamed and confounded forever. (*The
Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon
Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash) Those
who trust in chariots have their banners to
fly. **What are our “banners” (Ps. 20:5)?**