

PSALM 21:1-13

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"Let us with our Lord rejoice in salvation, as coming from God,"

This Psalm has been called David's triumphant song; we may remember it as "The Royal Triumphal Ode." "The King" is prominent throughout, and if our meditation of Him is sweet while reading it, we will profit. We must crown Him with the glory of our salvation, singing His love and praising His power.

Psalm 22 will take us to the foot of the Cross. This Psalm introduces us to the steps of the throne.

(Ps. 21:1) The king shall joy in Thy strength, O LORD. Let every subject of King Jesus imitate the King. Lean on Jehovah's strength, take joy in it with sturdy faith, and exult in it with thankful songs. Jesus has not only rejoiced in this, but He will also rejoice as He sees the power of divine grace bringing the purchase of His soul's labor from their sinful hiding places. We will rejoice more as we learn by experience the strength of our covenant God. Our weakness unstrings our harps; His strength tunes them. If we cannot sing a note in honor of our strength, we can rejoice in our omnipotent God.

And in Thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! David ascribes everything to God. The source is **Your strength**, and the stream is **Your salvation**. Jehovah planned, ordained, worked, and

crowned it; it is His salvation. An exclamation and a word describe the joy, **how greatly!** The rejoicing of our risen Lord must, like His agony, be unutterable. If the mountains of His joy rise in proportion to the depth of the valleys of His grief, then His sacred bliss is as high as the seventh heaven. "For the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2). That joy grows daily. He rests in His love and rejoices over His redeemed with singing, as they find salvation in His blood. Let us with our Lord rejoice in salvation, as coming from God, as coming to us, as extending to others, as soon encompassing all lands.

(Ps. 21:2) Thou hast given him his heart's desire. He ardently pursued that desire when He was on earth. Through His prayers, His actions, and His sufferings, Jesus showed that His heart longed to redeem His people. Now in heaven, His desire has been granted. He sees His beloved coming to be with Him where He is. The desires of the Lord Jesus were from His heart, and the Lord heard them. If our hearts are right, "He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him" (Ps. 145:19).

(Ps. 21:3) Thou settest a crown of pure gold on His head. Jesus wore the thorn

crown, but now He wears the glory crown. It is a **crown** indicating royal nature, imperial power, deserved honor, glorious conquest, and divine government. To show the excellence of His dominion, the crown is of the richest, rarest, resplendent, refined, valuable, and lasting **pure gold**. Because Jehovah firmly set the crown on **His head**, it is so firmly fixed that no power can move it; whereas, the diadems of other monarchs fit loosely. Napoleon crowned himself, but Jehovah crowned the Lord Jesus. The empire of the one melted in an hour, but the other has an abiding dominion. Some versions read, "A crown of precious stones," which reminds us of the beloved who will be as jewels in His crown. "'They shall be Mine,' says the Lord of hosts, 'On the day that I make them My jewels'" (Mal. 3:17). May we be set in the golden circle of the Redeemer's glory and adorn His head forever!

(Ps. 21:9) Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of Thine anger. They will be their own ovens, and thus their own tormentors. Those who burned with anger against You will be burned by Your anger. The fire of sin will be followed by the fire of wrath. As the smoke of Sodom and Gomorrah went up to heaven (Gen. 19:28), so will the enemies of the Lord Jesus be utterly and terribly consumed. Some read it, "You will put them as it were into a furnace of fire." Like kindling thrown in an oven, they will burn furiously beneath the Lord's anger. They will be cast into a furnace of fire, "there will be weeping and

gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30). These are terrible words. Reader, never tolerate slight thoughts of hell, or you will soon have low thoughts of sin. The hell of sinners must be tearful beyond all conception, or this language would not be used. Who would have the Son of God as an enemy, when such an overthrow awaits His foes? **The time of Your anger** reminds us that, as now is the time of His grace, there will be a set time for His wrath. The judge arrives at the appointed time. There is a day of vengeance of our God. Let those who despise the day of grace remember this day of wrath.

The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them. Jehovah will visit with anger the enemies of His Son. The Lord Jesus will judge by commission from God, and Jehovah's solemn assent and cooperation will be with Him as He sentences impenitent sinners. What is intended here is an utter destruction of soul and body, so that both will be swallowed with misery and devoured with anguish. Oh, the wrath to come! The wrath to come! Who can endure it? Lord, save us from it, for Jesus' sake.

(Ps. 21:13) Be thou exalted, LORD, in Thine own strength! This is a sweet concluding verse. Our hearts join in praising the Lord when we remember His goodness is always right. The exaltation of God's name should be the business of every Christian, but we are such poor things that we fail to honor Him as He deserves. Still, we may invoke His power to

help. **Be thou exalted, LORD, In Thine own strength**, for no other power can do it.

We sing and praise Thy power. For a time, the saints may mourn, but the glorious appearance of their divine Helper awakens their joy. Joy should always flow in the channel of praise. All God's attributes are worthy subjects to be celebrated by the music of our hearts and voices. When we observe a display of His **power**, we must extol it. He alone worked our deliverance, and He alone (*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

Show how the promises of Psalm 21:1-7 apply not only to Christ and David but can be extended to us also. 2 Sam. 7:13, 16 Ps. 16:11 Ps. 89:4 Acts 2:28 Acts 5:31 Rom. 6:11 Heb. 2:9