

# Psalms 20 – Remembering the Name of the Lord

Michael Silva / October 6, 2019

## Opening: Romeo & Juliet

- Quote from the play “*What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.*”
- Context: Juliet is not allowed to associate with Romeo because he is a Montague.<sup>1</sup>
  - a) If he had any other name it would be fine.
  - b) If the rose had any other name it would still be the same.
  - c) So with Romeo; he would still be the same beautiful young man even if he had a different name.
  - d) Juliet knows that the blood feud prevents her from loving a Montague. She ponders it...
  - e) What is so special about a name?
- ❖ As we will see in our passage today, there is much power and hope in a name, but not just any name.
  - a) No, I’m not speaking of the Montague family, nor am I talking about the Kennedy family here in America.
  - b) I’m talking about the name of the Lord.

## Introduction: The Book of Psalms - The hymnbook of the Bible.

1. In the Psalms we find real emotions and struggles being expressed to the Lord.
  - a) In the midst of those struggles we are reminded that God is **sovereign** and that regardless of our circumstances **He is worthy of praise**.
2. RECAP: Last Week: **Psalm 19 - Seeing, Repenting, Rejoicing, & Reflecting**.

## Our passage today is: **Psalm 20** (NKJV)<sup>i</sup>

1. I’ve **summarized** our passage today **Remembering the Name of the Lord**.

## **Psalm 20 Title**

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1. While David is yet again identified as the author, the **form and flow** of this Psalm is **different** from all the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/quotes/whats-in-a-name/>

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rest that we've seen thus far.

- a) David has captured and recorded the words of the **people** in the Psalm.
    - i) This Psalm is largely the **people's prayer** to the Lord on behalf of their King, David.
  - b) This Psalm begins and ends with the people's prayer, with David joining them in their prayer for a few verses in the middle.
2. In these 9 short verses there are several repeated words that help us in identifying the key or central theme of a passage.
- a) The word "**LORD**" is used 5 times. It is evident where their focus was, up on God.
  - b) The word "**save**" (in various forms) is used 3 times.
  - c) We also find word "**name**" used 3 times, all in reference to God.

### Psalm 20:1

<sup>1</sup> May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

1. The "**you**" is in the singular form in the original Hebrew, the first general reference to King David.
  - a) Here David is simply recording the word of the people who are praying for David.
2. Commentators believe the "**day of trouble**" was some great battle the nation of Israel faced.
  - a) All throughout her history Israel has been surrounded by enemies.
    - i) They were pausing to pray before the battle begins.
    - b) We too will face many days of trouble so let's see what we can learn from this Psalm.
3. This is our first reference to "**the name**"... the first instance is "**the name of the God of Jacob**"
  - a) The Hebrew name of God used here is **Elohim**.
    - i) This is the first name of God used in the Bible in **Genesis 1:1** – "**In the beginning God [Elohim] created...**"
    - ii) The name Elohim reminds us that God is the great **Creator, Protector, and Provider**.
  - b) The people desired that the **God of Jacob protect** their King who would in turn help provide **protection** for them.
    - i) Consider Jacob, he was the **supplanter**, the **deceiver**, according to his name.
      - (1) He stole his father's blessing and his brother's birthright. Yet, God protected him.
    - ii) The idea here is that the people recognized that their king was not perfect.

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- (1) If they idolized their king they would not be saying this prayer.
- (2) No, they knew their king had flaws, yet they had a higher hope, in the God of heaven above.
- (3) They knew the right source to turn to, and they were seeking the **God of Jacob** to protect their king as He did Israel, their forefather.

4. Do you pray this way for your leaders? You should.

- a) **1 Peter 2:17** <sup>17</sup> Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
- b) **1 Timothy 2:1–2** <sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
- c) I want to encourage you to make it a **regular habit** of *praying* for those in authority over you.

**Psalm 20:2** <sup>2</sup> May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion;

1. The people knew what they faced in battle was **greater than themselves**. So, they prayed that God would send [David] help.
2. Where was David's help to come from?
  - a) The **sanctuary**. This is the place of **worship**.
    - i) We know that David was a worshipper.
    - ii) If you want help in your day of trouble, start with worshipping God.
    - iii) **Psalm 100:4** <sup>4</sup> Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.
  - b) The people prayed for David to be **strengthen... out of Zion**.
    - i) Zion is the place during Old Testament times where the Spirit of God dwelt.
    - ii) Where can the Spirit of God be found today?
      - (1) He dwells in the heart of believers.
      - (2) We also find Him... in reading the Word.
        - (a) In church gatherings where the people are worshipping in spirit and truth.
        - (b) In prayer.
  - c) Worship God and Seek out His Spirit and you are sure to find **help** and **strength**.

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### Psalm 20:3

<sup>3</sup> May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah

1. Offerings and sacrifices were often made **before** going into battle.
  - a) But the offering or sacrifice always had more to do with the **heart** than what was offered at the altar.
  - b) Jesus said in **Matthew 9:13**, <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
  - c) **Hosea 6:6** <sup>6</sup> For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
  - d) I believe the people here in this passage, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit knew it's about the heart.
    - i) Their actions in bringing **offerings** and **burnt sacrifice** reflect a heart that is truly surrendered to God.
      - (1) This is what they are calling on God to remember.
2. Then this verse ends with the Hebrew word **Selah**, which means to pause and reflect.

### Psalm 20:4

<sup>4</sup> May He grant you according to your heart's *desire*, And fulfill all your purpose.

1. If you want God to grant you your **heart's desire** a few things must happen first.
  - a) First, you need **a new heart**.
    - i) **Psalms 51:10** <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
      - (1) This is accomplished through faith in Christ.
      - (2) **2 Corinthians 5:17** <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
  - b) Second, **surrender yourself** to God's will for your life.
    - i) **Proverbs 16:3** <sup>3</sup> Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.
    - ii) **Proverbs 16:9** <sup>9</sup> A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.
  - c) Find **delight** in the Lord above all else.
    - i) **Psalms 40:8** <sup>8</sup> I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart."
    - ii) **Psalms 37:4-5** <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

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- d) **Seek** and **ask** for God's will to be accomplished in your life.
  - i) **Matthew 7:7-8** <sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
- e) Remember this **warning**:
  - i) **Psalm 66:18** <sup>18</sup> If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

2. Guzik: When our desires are in accord with the plan and will of God for us, we can pray this same prayer with confidence. We can also look for God to bring our desires more and more into conformity with His, in the course of Christian growth.<sup>2</sup>

3. This verse also reminds us that **You have a Purpose**:

- a) **Colossians 1:16** <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- b) Rick **Warren** in his book *The Purpose Driven Life* wrote, "The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose... You were made by God for God – and until you understand that, life will never make sense."
  - i) "God is not just the starting point of your life; he is the source of it. To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God's Word, not the world's wisdom. You must build your life on eternal truths, not pop psychology, success-motivation, or inspirational stories. The Bible says, "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone." (Eph 1:11-12 MSG)

**Psalm 20:5** <sup>5</sup> We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners!  
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

- 1. King David was a great leader. Even though that was true, the people here are rejoicing, not in David's leadership, but in the Lord's **salvation**.
  - a) They knew that **all they had** really came **from the Lord** and not any man here on earth.

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<sup>2</sup> Guzik, D. (2013). [Psalms](#) (Ps 20:4). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

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2. Here's the second reference to "name"...

- a) The Psalmist and the people declare that they *will set up [there] banners [in] the name of our God.*
- b) Again, this is **Elohim**, and because He is their Protector and Provider they declare that they *will set up [there] banners.*
  - i) Military forces always carried banners that represented either or both their *king and their country.*
  - ii) When returning victoriously from battle they would *proudly display* their banners for all to see.
  - iii) Having served as a *Marine* for 10 years which included a deployment to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, when I hear the National Anthem, *I stand tall with pride* knowing I helped contribute to our freedoms that that flag represents.
    - (1) But I know that all that we have here, our freedoms and blessings have ultimately come from the Lord.
    - (2) This is the idea here in our passage.
  - iv) The people can proudly stand behind their banners, knowing it's ultimately God who deserves all the glory, we just get to be a tiny part of a great thing.
  - v) Be proud of your faith in the Lord. You don't have to hide it, you shouldn't hide it.
    - (1) It honors the Lord when you stand boldly behind your faith, like a banner for all to see.

**Psalm 20:6** <sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.

1. Here we have David's personal response to the people's prayers.

- a) He declares with boldness, *Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed.*
- b) The word *anointed* is a special word used to describe the position of the king and the high priest of Israel.
  - i) This is also a word that speaks of the coming Messiah.

2. God saves from *His holy heaven* above *With the saving strength of His right hand.*

- a) Like David, I've experienced the power and protection of God's *right hand.*
  - i) Time and time again I know God's *right hand* of protection has been on me and my family for this I can Praise Him!

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### Psalm 20:7

<sup>7</sup> Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

1. Again for a third time the name of the LORD our God is emphasized.
  - a) This time the name **Elohim** is *coupled with* the letters **YHWH**, translated as LORD – signified with all capital letter. This name is the *personal name of Israel's covenant God*.
    - i) This is the name that represents the *all the promises* God has made to the Nation of Israel.
    - ii) This is why the Nation of Israel is in existence today, because of YHWH's covenants with the Nation of Israel.
    - iii) **Isaiah 54:7–10** <sup>7</sup> “For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. <sup>8</sup> With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” Says the LORD, your Redeemer. <sup>9</sup> “For this *is* like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. <sup>10</sup> For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.
2. David writes and the people sing, *we will remember the name of the LORD our God*.
  - a) The key word for us there is *remember*.
  - b) We must be intentional about remembering because it's so easy to forget about the One who has all power and might.

### Psalm 20:8

<sup>8</sup> They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

1. Here the people are describing the ultimate defeat of their enemies, they have bowed down and fallen.
  - a) That is contrasted with the people of Israel who *risen and stand upright*, and that is only because God has fought for them and protected them.
  - b) Be encouraged, all the enemies of God will either be *converted or defeated*.
    - i) We know how the story ends. The final chapter is already written!

### Psalm 20:9

<sup>9</sup> Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

1. This is the third time the people make an appeal to God to “*Save*” them.
  - a) And in particular, God save the King so that he's there to respond to their calls when they need him.

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**Conclusion: What's the big take away from this passage?**

1. Remembering the Name of the Lord.

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<sup>i</sup> All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.