

Bible Study on Psalm 21 – Leader Notes

- 1. The king relied on the Lord's strength to win the battle. Verse 7 says that the king "trusts in the Lord" and His love. The king is secure in God. As the center of this psalm, verse 7 emphasizes the importance of the king's faith in God.**
- 2. Jesus totally relied on the heavenly Father for everything. The Father did not fail Him.**
- 3. In 20:3 his sacrifices were accepted because they were offered in faith. In 21:7 he is not shaken because of his faith and trust in the lord.**
- 4. The people thank God for granting their king "the desire of his heart" and for not withholding the "request of his lips" (v. 2); for giving him rich blessings and a "crown of pure gold" (v. 3); for sparing his life and for giving him eternal life through faith (v. 4); for bestowing on him "glory, ...splendor and majesty" (v. 5); and for being with him (v. 6). Notes that the "crown of pure gold" mentioned in verse 3 might have referred to the riches captured in battle.**
- 5. In Verses 3-6 God has made Jesus King forever in the church; He rules there in honor and majesty.**
- 6. This shows that God has granted the very blessing the people and the king had requested. The rich blessings and the crown of gold which the king receives may refer to booty captured in the battle.**
- 7. SELAH – Hebrew; untranslatable. Mainly in the first two books of Psalms. Probably refers to the accompaniment of the harps during the psalm. (TLSB p. 993)**

This often occurs in the middle of a psalm and which apparently signals an interlude. "The Sela indicates that one must be still and

quickly think through the words of the psalm; for they demand a quiet and restful soul, which can grasp and hold to that which the Holy Spirit there presents and offers” (Luther). (Psalms – The Prayer Book of the Bible – Dietrich Bonhoeffer p. 23)

Selah may be a musical notation. It could also be a point where a pause is desirable for the singer or reader of the psalm in order that the statement last made or the thought as a whole just developed may be reflected upon before the next turn of the thought appears.

(Leupold)

8. The Psalm shifts from addressing God to addressing the king. Series of encouragements are spoken directly to the king. (TLSB)

9. The people assure the king of a string of future victories for God’s anointed. Although these words can be applied to the victories of the kings of Judah, they are especially fitting when applied to Christ, David’s greatest son. These words will be fulfilled in the fullest sense on Judgment Day when Christ’s accomplishes the final defeat of all the enemies of God’s people. (PBC)

10. These words describe God’s anger at the wickedness of Satan and at the human agents who do His bidding.

11. Images in these verses that point to Jesus’ ultimate victory over evil include: “Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies” (v. 8); “The Lord will swallow them up, and His fire will consume them” (v. 9); “You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from mankind” (v. 10). According to these verses, the power and might of the Lord will destroy every enemy that rises against Him and His people.

12. For the believer, verses 8-12 are words of comfort. As we suffer the effects of sin's corruption and chaos in the world around us, these words remind us that God is in control. He does indeed have power, and He will eventually end all the influence of sin and Satan. We can be certain of this because Jesus has already gained the victory over sin, death and Satan through His death and resurrection. The verse of this psalm paint a powerful picture of our active and all-powerful God, who promises to take action to preserve and rescue us, His people, His family.

13. Conclusion—and return to the beginning: Lord, assert your strength, in which “the king rejoices” (v. 1; see also v. 7), and we will ever praise your might. (CSB)

14. Answers will vary. Our national leaders face incredible pressures. Terrorism, wars, and corruption (both within and outside of our nation) are but a few of the problems presidents, prime ministers, legislators, judges, and other leaders face. It is important that we ask God to be with our leaders to guide them in their decision-making, and to keep them focused on God's Word as their source for true strength and wisdom. When we find ourselves governed by someone who is not a Christian or by someone who makes decisions contrary to God's Word, we need to ask God to work to change the mind and heart of such an individual and to bring her/him to faith in Him. As citizens, we need our hearts and minds centered on our Savior-God, so that we remember to participate prayerfully through the election process and other proper means God has given us to change leaders and laws when necessary.