

# Psalm 21

**Introduction** – The resurrected Jesus instructed His disciples that all the Scriptures spoke concerning Him. Psalm 21 is a “Psalm of David” but it is easy to see that this psalm transcends the ministry of David to the greater David who now rules “*forever and ever*” (v4) as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Psalm begins with great thanksgiving and rejoicing over the victory of this King (vv1-6), followed by a section declaring His continual triumph with a sober warning to all His enemies (vv7-13). Both sections and both truths must be embraced in order to share the astounding joy sung by the Psalm-singer and so we must sing and meditate over the entire Psalm.

**The King Shall Have Joy** (vv1-6) – The king, and so Jesus, rejoices in the strength of Yahweh and so should his servants, for it is in this strength that God has brought forth the salvation of the world (v1). The King asked for this salvation, and Yahweh has granted it (v2, Psalm 2:8, Matt 28:18). God went before Him and then met the King after His victory with a crown (v3, Eph 4:7-8). The King asked for life, and Yahweh gave to Him eternal life and an eternal reign (v4). Glory, honor, and majesty have been placed upon him in the salvation of God (v5, Rev 5:13). Raised to this position, the king is joyful with gladness as He reigns with an overflowing wellspring of blessing upon Him and over His kingdom (v6).

**The Joyful Reign of Jesus Christ** – God gave to Jesus, His Son, the nations of the world and from His ascension on, Christ rules over the nations. He did not go to heaven as the great loser; rather, He accomplished His desire in His death, burial and resurrection and received “the joy set before Him.” At God’s right hand is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11) and this is the mindset of the King who reigns forever and ever.

**Gladness in Heaven** – When a sinner repents, the angels observe a great joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10). Heaven is a place of great gladness (Psalm 21:6) because God is the fount of gladness and joy. Consider this: Heaven is a great place of victory-celebration.

**The Joyful Reign in His Kingdom** – Here, on earth, “*The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One will save, He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing*” (Zeph 3:17). Overwhelmingly, our service of worship is a service in that victory, in that love, and in that rejoicing – all from God to and over and through us. One of the reasons that we don’t respond and experience this joy is because we have minimized the doctrine of sin, judgment and hell. We sing the first half of the psalm, but we do not sing, meditate, and believe the second half, rejoicing over what we’ve been saved from.

**Saved from What?** (vv7-13) – The King reigns forever because His trust is not in the flesh, but in Yahweh (v7). As His kingdom spreads, no enemy can hide from Him (v8). Yahweh shall devour them in His fiery wrath (v9, Heb 12:29). His wrath will put down the descendants of His enemies (v10), even against those who only had plans and intents and yet were thwarted (v11). God has them in the cross-hairs (v12). And this doctrine of judgment brings forth the unembarrassed and unsuppressed singing of the faithful (v13).

**The Terrible Wrath of God and the Reality of Hell and Judgment** - There is no good news unless we understand the bad news. He who is forgiven much will love much. Do you realize what you have been saved from? We have not been saved simply from loneliness, or a low self-esteem, or a lack of purpose in life. We have been saved from hell and “*the fire that shall never be quenched*” (Isaiah 66:24, Mark 9:43). Again, Jesus says that there will be those whom He will cast into the furnace of fire “*where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth*” (Matt 13:41-42), a place of “*everlasting punishment*” (Matt 25:46). Some say that the Bible’s pictures of consuming hellfire and an unending torment from worms are only a metaphor. This is fine as long as we understand that metaphors are always less than the reality. They may be just a picture, like Sodom and Gomorrah is just a hint. God is promising to destroy those who hate Him; He will set them up for target practice and He’s a good shot (Psalm 21:12). We must understand that we were by nature children of wrath (Eph 2:3).

**Unwavering Loyalty to our King** – There is only one time in the New Testament where the saints sing “Alleluia” and it is when they see the smoke rising up “forever and ever” from the fallen Babylon (Rev 19). Here they echo the sentiment of Psalm 21:13, “*Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments....Alleluia! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns!*” The Fall of Jerusalem was another picture for us of the Final Judgment that God will bring. But such joyful loyalty to King Jesus will be used by God in the preaching of the gospel to save many.

**Rejoicing in God’s Strength and Power** - It is hard to comprehend that an affirmation of God’s glory in His justice is one of the foundations of our joy. And so we become joyless Christians and embarrassed over many passages of Scripture. But when God reveals to us that “but for the grace of God go I” and when He reveals to us the salvation of the world promised to King Jesus, we become a people consumed with thanksgiving, celebration, singing, and joy. This is a taste of heaven. This is a taste of Jesus.

*“Be exalted O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.” – v13*