

Advent Sunday 4 – Psalm 20:8-9

BELIEVE THE PROPHETS!

Psalm 20

For the music director.

A psalm of David.

1 May Yahweh answer you in the day of trouble.

May the name of Jacob's God protect you.

2 May he send you help **from the sanctuary,**
and from Zion may he sustain you.

3 May he remember all your offerings,
and your burnt offering may he regard favorably.
Selah

- From the Sanctuary
- From Zion
- God remembers your sacrificial offerings

4 May he give to you your heart's desire,
and your every plan may he fulfill.

5 May we shout for joy over your victory,
and in the name of our God may we set up banners.

May Yahweh fulfill all your requests.

- We cannot outgive God
- Shout for joy
 - Every victory

6 Now I know that Yahweh will help his anointed (Jesus).
He will answer him from his Holy Heaven
with the victorious power of his right hand.

7 Some boast in chariots and others in horses,
but we boast in the name of Yahweh, our God.

- **Past and present applications:**
 - **David** – He depended non God's anointing,
 - **Jesus** – He was dependent upon the promises of His Father – Jesus believed the prophets!
 - **You** – do you believe the Prophets?
 - **Will God rescue His own?**
 - Has He ever in the past?
 - Bible is filled with God rescuing His own:
 - Noah and his family
 - Abraham and Lot
 - Hagar the Egyptian and Ishmael
 - 3 young believers in Nebuchadnezzar's day
 - Esther and Mordecai
 - Nehemiah, Ezra, Zerubbabel
 - Over and over in Jesus' day – thousands healed
 - Apostle Paul
- We will not trust in anything or anyone **BUT** God almighty.

- But fear drives us to crazy limits!
- A November 2014 Gallup poll found that 17 percent of Americans named Ebola as America's "most urgent health problem." That is a larger percentage than those who named health problems like obesity, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, or substance abuse. By the end of 2014, two people had died in the United States from Ebola compared to the millions killed by the others.
 - It is so easy to stress out over things that are less important. Jesus told Martha, "You are anxious and troubled about many things! Focus on the one thing that is most important." When life's problems begin to bring stress, we would do well to remember Jesus' words to Martha. ¹

8 They will collapse and fall,
and we will rise and stand firm.
9 Rescue, O Yahweh.
Let the king answer us when we call. ²

I believe we are living in the end times.

Jesus told us that catastrophe would become stronger and stronger – like birth pangs before the birthing moment:

Matthew 24:3–14

3 And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came up to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them,
"Watch out that no one deceives you! (repeated 4 times!)

5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will deceive many.

6 And you are going to hear about wars and rumors of wars.

**See to it that you are not alarmed,
for this must happen,
but the end is not yet.**

7 For nation will rise up against nation
and kingdom against kingdom (civil war).
and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 But all these things are the beginning of birth pains.

9 "Then they will hand you over to persecution and will kill you,
and you will be hated by all the nations because of my name.

10 And then many will be led into sin
and will betray one another and will hate one another,

11 and many false prophets will appear
and will deceive many,

12 and because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But the one who endures to the end—this person will be saved.

¹ Jim L. Wilson and Rodger Russell, "More Worried about Ebola than Cancer and Heart Disease," in *300 Illustrations for Preachers*, ed. Elliot Ritzema (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015).

² W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Ps 20:title–9.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Unprecedented political evil and trouble all around us

Psalm 34:21–22

21 Evil shall slay the wicked,

And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,

And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Psalm 20:

- **Spurgeon applied Hamilton Verschoyle's quote:**

'The scene presented in this place to the eye of faith is deeply affecting. Here is the Messiah pouring out his heart in prayer in the day of his trouble; his spouse overhears his agonizing groans; she is moved with the tenderest sympathy towards him; she mingles her prayers with his; she entreats that he may be supported and defended.' ³

- **Andrew Bonar** adds: 'This psalm is the prayer which the church might be supposed [to be] offering up, had all the redeemed stood by the cross or in Gethsemane, in full consciousness of what was doing there.' ⁴

Can you hear the Church of Jesus Christ rising and praying?

**8 They will collapse and fall,
and we will rise and stand firm.**

- **"They"** – those who trust in anything or anyone other than Yahweh
- **"We"** – those whose hope is solely placed upon the Lord
 - **Spurgeon:** "**The victory of Jesus is the inheritance of his people.** The world, death, Satan and sin, shall all be trampled beneath the feet of the champions of faith; while those who rely upon an arm of flesh shall be ashamed and confounded forever." ⁵

Revelation 1:6–7

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,

to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds,

and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.

And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.

Even so, Amen.

Psalm 146:5–9

**5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

6 Who made heaven and earth,

³ Roger Ellsworth, *Opening up Psalms*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 172.

⁴ Roger Ellsworth, *Opening up Psalms*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 172.

⁵ C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David: Psalms 1-26*, vol. 1 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 303.

The sea, and all that is in them;
Who keeps truth forever,
7 Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.
8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
The LORD raises those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the strangers;
He relieves the fatherless and widow;

But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NLT)

7 **“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD
and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.**

8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.

- **Spurgeon:** “The enemies of God are uppermost at first, but ere long are brought down by force, or fall of their own accord. Their foundation is rotten; and where is their boasted strength? As for those who rest on Jehovah, they are often east down at the first onset, but an Almighty arm uplifts them, and they joyfully stand upright. The victory of Jesus is the inheritance of his people. 6

What is the Church of Jesus Christ crying out?

9 **SAVE, O Yahweh!**

Let the king answer us when we call. 7

9 (NLT) **Give victory to our king, O Lord!**

Answer our cry for help. 8

- A great two-word prayer – **“Save, LORD!”**
 - Question is then – who’s your King?
 - Most liberals don’t believe the very Science they say is irrefutable in their causes.
 - Here’s what Science undeniably says:
 - Abortion kills a living child, unborn children feel pain
 - Gender is determined by God, not by man.
 - Most masks are useless

⁶ C. H. Spurgeon, *Psalms*, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993), 73.

⁷ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Ps 20:8–9.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Ps 20:9–Ps 21.

Benediction:

Psalm 118:24-29

24 This is the day Yahweh has worked;
let us rejoice and be glad in him.

25 O Yahweh, please save;
O Yahweh, please grant success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh.
We bless you from the house of Yahweh.

27 Yahweh is God, and he has given us light.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords
to the horns of the altar.

28 **You are my God,
and I will give thanks to you.**

**You are my God;
I will exalt you.**

29 Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good,
for his loyal love is forever. ⁹

⁹ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Ps 118:24–29.