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Psalm 20: To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

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Psalm 20
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.
(RSV)

- ¹ The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!**
- ² May he send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion!**
- ³ May he remember all your offerings,
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah***
- ⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire,
and fulfill all your plans!**
- ⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!**
- ⁶ Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with mighty victories by his right hand.**
- ⁷ Some boast of chariots, and some of horses;
but we boast of the name of the LORD our God.**
- ⁸ They will collapse and fall;
but we shall rise and stand upright.**
- ⁹ Give victory to the king, O LORD;
answer us when we call. ^(a)**

Footnote:

- a. (v.9) Gk: Heb *give victory, O LORD, let the King answer us when we call*

Psalm 20 is a prayer for the victory of the king, either David, the anointed, or a successor son of David (verse 6), before the battle begins. It begins and ends with a prayer for an answer to the prayer for victory. If we take a cue from verse 6 and think of The Anointed One, Jesus the Messiah, we might regard this Psalm as our prayer to God the LORD on behalf of Jesus as he enters into his day of trouble (verse 1), asking the Father to accept his sacrifice of himself on the cross (verse 3), and grant Jesus his heart's-desire (verse 4). When we think of Jesus' heart's-desire, we might think of his High Priestly Prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17, or his more succinct prayer from the cross, "Father, forgive them!" (Luke 23:34).

Prayer to accompany Psalm 20:

Lord God, you accepted the perfect sacrifice of your Son upon the cross. Hear us during times of trouble and protect us by the power of his name, that as we share in his conflict on earth, so may we share in his victory in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Linger longer over verse 7:

Some boast of chariots, and some of horses;
but we boast of the name of the LORD our God.