

WHEN YOU PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING THE LORD

PSALM 20

Introduction:

The setting for this Psalm is rather evident. The king of Israel is standing before the altar of the Lord before marching off to battle. The congregation has gathered around him in prayer. They use this Psalm as a congregational prayer for their leader.

We can learn from this. Those who are serving the Lord need our prayers; no matter how experienced or strong they may be. This prayer is a model for us when we pray for those serving the Lord.

I. PRAY SPECIFICALLY!

1. Pray that the Lord will hear their prayers.

“May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble” (v. 1) “May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.” (v. 5)

2. Pray that the Lord will protect them.

“May the name of the God of Jacob defend you.” (v. 1)

3. Pray that the Lord will support them.

“May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion.” (v. 2)

4. Pray that the Lord will accept their offerings.

“May He remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt offerings.” (v. 3)

5. Pray that the Lord will fulfill their plans.

“May He grant you according to your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your purposes.” (v. 4)

II. PRAY CONFIDENTLY!

“Now I know...”

1. Be confident that God does help those He sends.

“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.” (v. 6)

2. Be confident that the Lord makes His servants victorious.

The verbs of this section are prophetic perfects. The person praying is so confident that God will answer that he declares that it has already happened. God has already given the victory.

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright.” (v. 7, 8)

III. PRAY PERSISTENTLY!

“Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call.” (v. 9)