

Tehillim / Psalms 20

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Psalm 20:1 "May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the God of Jacob set you securely on high! (NASB)

- The title "God of Jacob" occurs at least 14 times in the Tanach (Laws, prophets, writings).
 - Three times the title occurs as "the mighty God of Jacob."
 - we don't read:
 - o The God of Moshe
 - o The God of Joshua
 - o the God of Solomon
- we always read
- the God of Abraham,
Issac, or Jacob

Questions

1. Why does the Lord identify Himself with Jacob?
→ What is there in the dealings with this man (Jacob) which suggest to us the importance of this title David uses of the Lord in Psalm 20:1?

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- o The Lord chooses the off-normal way to operate (choosing the 2nd born son) sovereign choice...
 - o Covenant promises
 - o God's transforming power (Jacob >> Israel)

2. What is the significance of the expression "God of Jacob"?

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- o Jacob's encounter with God causes him to walk differently.
 - o David's use of the "God of Jacob" suggests how we need to be living and walking changed lives, and it is the Lord who enables us to do that...

Psalm 20:2-3

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"May He send you help from the sanctuary
and support from Zion! May He
remember all your meal offerings and
find your burnt offering acceptable!" (NASB)

Questions

1. How does help come from the sanctuary?
- might be connected to getting an answer (20:1)?
2. What makes an offering acceptable or unacceptable?
 - according to the Torah?
 - the way God describes?
 - on our own?
 - what did Yeshua say would make an offering unacceptable? (Matthew 5:23-24)...
3. How does this connect to Psalm 20:4?



Psalm 20:4

"May He grant you your heart's desire
And fulfill all your counsel" (NASB)

→ Leviticus 22:29-32 (Page 467)

- eaten same day.
- Keep the commandments.
- Do not profane the Name of the Lord.
- the Lord is the One who makes us holy.

How do these relate to what Yeshua said in Matthew 5:23-24?
- If you brought your offering before God, need to
make haste to seek forgiveness from others...

Example of acceptable & unacceptable worship is

Cain and Abel.

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Cain

- offered the produce from the land, the growth product of the cursed ground.
- Note being cursed by being hung upon a tree.

Abel

- offered the firstborn of the flock
- offered their fat

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." (NASB)

→ Abel offered by faith and Cain did not.

→ If we worship God by faith, we are to worship as the word of God directs us.

* Back to Psalms 20:4, granting our hearts desire, and fulfilling all our counsel.

Romans 14:23 "For whatever is not from faith is sin."

Questions

1. What is faith?

2. What is sin?

3. Does sin apply only if we consider something to be sin in our hearts, when God's word clearly details sin?

Does tradition supersede God's word today?

④
• The prophets say sacrifices are of little worth without a repentant heart, a determination to turn from sin, and to live righteously before God.

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• Is this the way God will answer our prayers and Grant our heart's desire?
Psalm 20:1, 4.

• If our outward lives and our inward thoughts are righteous, our heart will not have desires rooted in sin and God will grant the desires of our heart.

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Read

• In psalm 20:1-4, David is drawing together the necessity of prayer, sacrifice, justice, righteousness, and faith.

* It is in this way that the Korban (sacrifice) takes on both a physical and spiritual meaning!

Yeshua rebuked the pharisees for their inappropriate position on the Korban (sacrifice) according to Mark 7: 5-15.

→ The example given was to neglect the 5th commandment on honoring parents.

→ Tradition taught that the people could be relieved of their responsibility to the commands of God to make their lives a little easier.

* How often does this occur today?