

## Psalm 21

# "Thanks for Blessings; Anticipation of Future Military Success" <sup>1</sup>

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For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

### A1 THE PRAYER OF THE KING: The King's Thanks for Yahweh's Blessings 21:1-7

#### B1 The List of Yahweh's Blessings 21:1-6

- C1 For the Joy of Strength and Salvation: {1} O LORD, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice!
- C2 For Granting His Request: {2} You have given him his heart's desire, And You have not withheld the request of his lips.
- C3 For Blessing Him with Good Things Such as a Gold Crown: {3} For You meet him with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on his head. <sup>2</sup>
- C4 For Granting Him Long Life: {4} He asked life of You, You gave it to him, Length of days forever and ever.
- C5 For Granting Him Glory and Majesty: {5} His glory is great through Your salvation, Splendor and majesty You place upon him.
- C6 For Granting Supreme Blessing and Joyful Fellowship: {6} For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence.

#### B2 The Reason for Yahweh's Blessings 21:7

- C1 The King's Trust in Yahweh: {7} For the king trusts in the LORD,
- C2 The Loyal Love of the Most High: And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken.

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 21: Many believe this psalm is closely tied to Psalm 20, which is seen to be the king's prayer in the sanctuary before departing for battle. Presumably, then, Psalm 21 is a time of thanksgiving following that successful military endeavor (see Allen P. Ross, "Psalms," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*). The difficulty is that, while the king thanks God for blessings in 21:1-6, he does not specifically mention victory in battle. The people, furthermore, are not, in 21:8-12, thanking God for successes won on the battlefield, but for anticipated victories. While denying neither the similarity between the two psalms nor the possibility of Ross's interpretation, I think it is difficult to link them unequivocally to the same event.

<sup>2</sup> 21:3 - crown of gold: In Ross's view (that the king is thanking God for a victory won in response to the prayers of Psalm 20) this is the crown of a conquered foe, possibly an Ammonite king (2 Sam. 12:30).

**A2 THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE: The King's Future Military Success Because of Yahweh's Blessings**

**B1 Successful Detection of Enemies:** {8} Your hand will find out all your enemies; Your right hand will find out those who hate you.

**B2 Fiery Victory 21:9**

C1 Fueled by the Confrontation of the King: {9} You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger;

C2 Fueled by the Anger of Yahweh: The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them.

**B3 The Totality of Victory -- The elimination of any possibility of descendants:** {10} Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men.

**B4 The Thwarting of the Evil of the Enemy:** {11} Though they intended evil against You *And* devised a plot, They will not succeed.

**B5 The Retreat of The Enemy:** {12} For You will make them turn their back; You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces.

**A3 THE PEOPLES' VOW OF PRAISE 21:13**

**B1 Their Request for Yahweh's Triumph in Power:** {13} Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength;

**B2 Their Promise to Praise His Power:** We will sing and praise Your power.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 21

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