

Victory of God's Anointed and of GOD'S ANOINTED (Psalm 21)

Water of Life

Dr. John Niemelä

November 20, 2014

Introduction to this Individual-Thanksgiving Psalm

21:1a A Psalm of David [for Use] by the Chief Musician [in Israel's Worship]

DAVID'S VIEW OF THE PAST (21:1b-7): Here David is the Anointed of God

21:1b The King Rejoices in the LORD's Great Victory

Though often translated as future, these imperfect verbs (contextually) are present tense.

Salvation here (based on 21:2-5) refers to God granting David military victory

21:2-5 The LORD Gave the King All that He Asked: Giving Him the [Enemy's] Crown (21:3); Saving the King's Life Forever (21:4); Granting Him the Glory of Victory (21:5)

21:2 David had communicated all his heart's desire in prayer. The LORD answered.

Scholars puzzle over the exact meaning of *Selah*, which appears regularly in the Psalms. I do not have a lexical answer, but do have a theory based on where it appears.

21:3 The prefixed verbs are preterites (often lacking consecutive *wa·* = *then* in poetry). That is, the verbs should be translated as past: *YOU went before/YOU have set*.

I take the first verb in 21:3 as *YOU went before me*, not as *YOU met me* (*qāḏam*). That is, David attributes the victory to the *LORD going before him* in battle—in answer to prayer.

The crown (here) is the spoil of victory (cf. 2 Sam 12:30). Remember Eph 4:8f; Psalm 68

21:4 David says that God spared his life in battle (21:4a), but David expands the concept in 21:4b—because He knows God's promise of life everlasting. Cf. what He says about himself (Psalm 16:9b-10a) and about Christ (Psalm 16:10b). This is cited in Acts 2:25-31.

21:5 equates the LORD's victory (salvation) as placing honor + majesty (of victory) on him

21:6 The LORD Did These Things [21:2-5] Because the LORD Had Made Him Blessed Forever and Made Him Glad with the LORD's Presence

In explaining why God has done these things, David returns to what he said at the beginning of this Psalm: God has made him glad. In 21:1b, David was glad because of the victory granted by the LORD. Here, though he refers to the motivational aspect of possessing eternal blessing—e.g., reception of the blessing promised to and through Abraham. In other words, the blessings conferred upon believers.

21:7 Based on the King's Blessed Status and Joy in the LORD [21:6], the King Trusts in the LORD's *Hesed* that Makes Him Unshakeable

The word translated *mercy* is *hesed*, God's covenantal loyalty. *Hesed* (God's faithfulness to keep His promises) is the basis for David's trust in the LORD. David knows that he will not be shaken from what God has promised—even his throne (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

DAVID'S VIEW OF THE FUTURE (21:8-12): Here Christ is the ANOINTED of God

21:8 The LORD's Hand Will Find All The LORD's Enemies

Explaining the imagery of the hand finding.

21:9-10 The LORD's Enemies and Their Seed Will Be Destroyed from the Earth

Their demise is within history. This is not a description of the lake of fire:

1. 21:9 refers to the time of the LORD's anger and wrath,
2. 21:10 speaks of their offspring being destroyed from the earth,
3. 21:11 describes the punishment resulting from their foiled plot, not from unbelief,
4. 21:12 describes people fleeing from well-aimed arrows (e.g., military defeat).

21:11 Their Vain Plot Against the LORD [e.g., Against Christ] Is Why They Will Be Destroyed

21:12 The LORD's Enemies Will Flee in Retreat as His Arrows Hit the Target

THEREFORE, GOD IS TO BE EXALTED AND WE ARE TO PRAISE HIS POWER (21:13)

Praise refers to the votive sacrifice of praise (Lev 7:11^{ff} and Heb 13:5)

CONCLUSION