

Who Do You Trust?

Psalm 20

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary
and give you support from Zion!
May he remember all your offerings
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices!

Selah

May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!
May we shout for joy over your salvation,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;

he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.

**Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**

They collapse and fall,
but **we rise and stand upright.**

O Lord, save the king!
May he answer us when we call.

Who do you trust?

The answer is: lots of people. Friends, pastors, sometimes even strangers when I ask for directions somewhere! I trust that what they told me is right. I trust my doctor when he gives me medicine, and the airplane pilot who takes

me five miles up into the sky and promises to put me down safely, right where I want to be.

But sometimes our trust is broken. People let us down, make mistakes, or turn against us. And when that happens, it's hard to trust again. Anybody! But sometimes we have to realize that the fault is ours - when we put our trust in foolish places, or expected something that was never promised.

David talks about trust in our psalm today, saying:

**Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**

Notice the context of these words. The seven sentences before these words all started with the word "may" - *may* the Lord do these things. But when we get to the paragraph containing these words about trust, they start in a whole new way: **now I know!** There is no uncertainty anymore, but confidence, surety. And what are we confident of? That **the Lord saves his anointed** and that we, too, will **rise and stand upright**.

What do those words mean?

How do they give us confidence?

Well, the titles *Messiah* (Hebrew) and *Christ* (Greek) mean: *the anointed one*. So these words - **the Lord saves his anointed one** - were fulfilled when Jesus the Christ (the anointed one) rose from the dead. When Jesus was on the cross, he looked defeated, doomed. But in His resurrection, we see these words fulfilled. The anointed one was saved! Yes, Jesus wasn't doomed at all - something else was going on. He was dying for you and me, for our sins. And He was doing so to save us. So that not only would He rise from the dead, so would we! So that we, too, would **rise and stand upright**.

So David wrote: **I know** this! It had been promised and prophesied. And when God makes a promise, He keeps it. He won't let you down or break

your trust. Even if it seems so, even if there are crosses in your life (and remember how David had quite a few in his life!) - remember Jesus' cross and how God used it for such a wonderful good: to save you and the world!

And so we have a sure and confident hope for the future. People in this world will let us down. We're going to have trials and difficulties. Our sins and the sins of others against us will hurt and harm. All this is true. But along with all this is the promise of our God, that **the Lord saves his anointed** (and you were anointed by Him with the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism!) and that in the end you will **rise and stand upright**.

So whatever happens to you now or in the future, cling to these words of God and know that they are true for you. The horses and chariots, the friends and people of this world will let you down, but the Lord never will. He went to the cross for you. He rose from the dead for you. And He will be there for you when you are bearing the cross and when you breathe your last. You have a faithful God!

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son as the anointed one, to be my Saviour from sin and death. Lord Jesus, when my sin and the sins of this world come crashing down on me, and when faced with death, help me to remember Your great victory over sin and death in Your resurrection. And thank You for anointing me with Your Holy Spirit in Baptism, that I know I am Yours and that all Your promises are mine, and that in the end I will rise and stand upright, to live with You forever. Amen.