

SANCTUARY, SABBATH, SHALOM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 Sept-Nov Sermon Series Study Guide

Psalm 20:1-9^[a] (NIV)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;

may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

² May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.

³ May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.^[b]

⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God.

May the Lord grant all your requests.

⁶ Now this I know:

*The Lord gives victory to his anointed.
He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary
with the victorious power of his right hand.*

*⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

*⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.*

*⁹ Lord, give victory to the king!
Answer us when we call!*

Footnotes:

[a] In Hebrew texts 20:1-9 is numbered 20:2-10.

[b] The Hebrew has *Selah* (a word of uncertain meaning) here.

Sanctuary: Throne of Victory

OPEN

- Name a big win you have had in your life. It could be an award, a game win, overcoming some obstacle, etc... How, if at all, did you feel God's presence or help in that victory?
- Read Psalm 20:1-9.

STUDY

- Looking at verses 1-5, what is David wanting God to do and for whom?
- What might these particular prayers tell us about David and his people— their current situations, desires, struggles, hopes, etc...?
- Which of these seven "May the Lord..." phrases express a yearning you have right now? How and why?
- How do you think help can arise from the sanctuary in verse 2?
- In verses 6-9, what assurances does David have?
- How are these expressions of faith tied to the prayers of the first five verses?
- When King David mentions "his anointed" in verse 6, is he talking about himself or someone else? Explain.
- Note the multiple times the word "victory" is mentioned in this psalm. How does victory (or the hope of victory) arise from sanctuary in verse 6?
- In what part of your life do you need victory right now? How would you like God to intervene from his sanctuary?

PRAY

- Every small group member can pray for victory over the thing/s he or she mentioned in the last question. Close each prayer, together, saying out loud the phrase, "Lord, answer us when we call!" as in Psalm 20.