

Psalm 20:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

Analysis

Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. This verse marks a turning point—the shift from petition to certainty. 'Now know I' (atah yadati, עַתָּה יָדַעַתִּי) expresses immediate, confident knowledge, possibly in response to a prophetic oracle delivered during the worship service. In ancient Israel, priests or prophets would often deliver divine assurances during liturgical prayers, and this verse likely responds to such an oracle.

'His anointed' (meshicho, מֵשִׁיחַ) is the Hebrew word 'Messiah,' referring here to the Davidic king who was anointed with oil as a sign of divine election. Every Davidic king was technically 'the LORD's anointed,' a sacred figure who represented God's rule over Israel. This anointing theology reaches its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the ultimate Anointed One, who is both priest and king.

'The saving strength of his right hand' uses gevurot yesha (גָּבוֹרַת יְשָׁא), literally 'the mighty acts of salvation.' The right hand symbolizes power and favor in biblical literature. God's right hand delivers, protects, and exalts His people (Exodus 15:6, Psalm 98:1). For Christians, this points to Christ's position at God's right hand (Mark 16:19, Hebrews 1:3), from where He intercedes for us and exercises divine power. The salvation spoken here is both temporal deliverance and eternal redemption.

Historical Context

The concept of the 'LORD's anointed' was central to Israel's political theology. When Samuel anointed Saul and later David, he established a sacred kingship where the monarch served as God's vice-regent (1 Samuel 10:1, 16:13). This anointing wasn't merely ceremonial—it signified divine calling, protection, and empowerment. Attacking or harming the LORD's anointed was viewed as sacrilege (1 Samuel 24:6, 26:9), which is why David refused to kill Saul despite having opportunity.

The Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7) elevated this theology further—God promised David an eternal dynasty, and subsequent kings were seen as continuing this covenant line. Even as the monarchy declined and Israel faced exile, prophetic hope centered on a future ideal king, the Messiah, who would perfectly fulfill the role of the LORD's anointed. Psalm 20 participates in this messianic hope, and Jewish readers in the Second Temple period would have read it with eschatological expectation.

'His holy heaven' contrasts earthly temples with God's true dwelling. While God symbolically resided in Jerusalem's temple, His actual throne was in heaven. This theological tension—God's immanence and transcendence—permeates Israel's worship. God is both near (dwelling among His people) and far (enthroned above the heavens). The verse assures that God hears from His celestial throne and acts with heavenly power, making earthly opposition futile.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What circumstances in your life have moved you from petition to certainty in God's faithfulness?

2. How does understanding Jesus as the ultimate 'LORD's anointed' deepen your appreciation of His kingship?
3. In what ways have you experienced 'the saving strength of His right hand' in your life?
4. How should the knowledge that Christ sits at God's right hand interceding for you affect your prayer life?
5. What 'holy heaven' perspective do you need to gain on your current earthly troubles?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	יְהִי	וְיִשְׁמַח	יְמִימִינְךָ	וְיִשְׁמַע	מִמְּלֹאת
H6258	H3068	H3467	H3068	H4899	H6030
Now know	saveth	I that the LORD	his anointed	he will hear	
H3045	H1369	H3468			
heaven	him from his holy	strength	with the saving	of his right hand	
H8064	H6944	H3225			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 28:8 (References Lord): The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Acts 5:31 (Salvation): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Isaiah 63:15 (Holy): Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Acts 4:10 (Parallel theme): Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Psalms 18:50 (Parallel theme): Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

Psalms 2:2 (References Lord): The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Matthew 6:9 (Parallel theme): After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

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