

*We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfill all thy petitions. Now I know that the Lord saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. (Psalm 20:5-6)*

There is a people whose petitions God hears from heaven and whom He saves by His mighty right hand. When we say that there is such a people, it is implicit that there are also those whose petitions God does not hear and whom He does not save. Indeed there is a people whom He fights against.

The idea that God might discriminate one person against another, that there are those whom He has “anointed” or chosen and whom He intends to bless at the expense of other persons is alien and repulsive to this spiritually bereft generation, ignorant of the word and ways of God. We have fabricated a god out of our own imaginations who indulges our sins and unbelief, who loves everyone equally and indiscriminately, who blesses everyone alike and never takes active sides with anyone. The Bible teaches differently!

If God is going to be for us in particular, then He must be against whoever is against us. If He is to fight for us, then He must fight against our adversaries. If He is going to favor us with a blessing desired by all men, then what He gives us in particular will be withheld from someone else. That God helps us in the context of conflict among men is testified in that some “trust in chariots and horses,” instruments of human warfare.

Can it be known who these anointed or chosen people are? To a great extent, yes. All of them may not be known yet, but there are positive indications of those whom God favors and whose cause He will undertake.

The chosen are they who rejoice in God’s salvation. They trust none of their own or the religious devices of men. They delight in that which God alone provides. They rejoice in the name of God. They are pleased to speak of His greatness and not ashamed to call themselves by His name. They set up their banners in His name. All they do is in the name of the Lord. Their petitions are heard because they make them all to Him alone. He hears only those who do earnestly petition Him. And they are those who scorn the might of men’s “horses and chariots” (tanks, guns, planes, ships, bombs) and call upon their Creator to save and preserve them.

-C.M.