

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

(2 Chronicles 20:1-15) *“It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, ‘A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar’ (which is En Gedi). ³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶ and said: ‘O LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, ARE YOU NOT GOD IN HEAVEN, AND DO YOU NOT RULE OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE NATIONS, AND IN YOUR HAND IS THERE NOT POWER AND MIGHT, SO THAT NO ONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND YOU? ⁷ ARE YOU NOT OUR GOD, WHO DROVE OUT THE INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND BEFORE YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND GAVE IT TO THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM YOUR FRIEND FOREVER? ⁸ AND THEY DWELL IN IT, AND HAVE BUILT YOU A SANCTUARY IN IT FOR YOUR NAME, SAYING, ⁹ “If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.” ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against the great multitude that is coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” ¹³ Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. ¹⁴ THEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON JAHAZIAL THE SON OF ZECHARIAH, THE SON OF BENAIAH, THE SON OF JERIEL, THE SON OF METTANIAH, A LEVITE OF THE SONS OF ASAPH, IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY. ¹⁵ AND HE SAID, ‘LISTEN, ALL YOU OF JUDAH AND YOU INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, AND YOU JEHOSEPHAT! THUS, SAYS THE LORD TO YOU: “DO NOT BE AFRAID NOR DISMAYED BECAUSE OF THE GREAT MULTITUDE, FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD’S.”” (NKJV)*

I. THE NATION GATHERS TO SEEK GOD TOGETHER.

(vv. 3-4) *“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.”*

Jehoshaphat set the example by his own personal devotion. He would not call upon the people of Judah to seek the LORD in a way that he did not.

II. JEHOSHAPHAT LEADS THE ASSEMBLY IN PRAYER.

(vv. 5-12) *“Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶ and said: ‘O LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, ARE YOU NOT GOD IN HEAVEN, AND DO YOU NOT RULE OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE NATIONS, AND IN YOUR HAND IS THERE NOT POWER AND MIGHT, SO THAT NO ONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND YOU? ⁷ ARE YOU NOT OUR GOD, WHO DROVE OUT THE INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND BEFORE YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND GAVE IT TO THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM YOUR FRIEND FOREVER? ⁸ AND THEY DWELL IN IT, AND HAVE BUILT YOU A SANCTUARY IN IT FOR YOUR NAME, SAYING, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against the great multitude that is coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.’”*

A. “. . . ARE YOU NOT GOD IN HEAVEN, AND DO YOU NOT RULE OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE NATIONS?”

Jehoshaphat began his great prayer by recognizing the power of Yahweh over HEAVEN and all the KINGDOMS OF THE NATIONS.

B. GOD ANSWERS JEROSHAPHAT’S PRAYER.

The promise is given through a prophet.

(vv. 13-15) *“Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. ¹⁴ THEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON JAHAZIAL THE SON OF ZECHARIAH, THE SON OF BENAI AH, THE SON OF JERIEL, THE SON OF METTANIAH, A LEVITE OF THE SONS OF ASAPH, IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY. ¹⁵ AND HE SAID, ‘LISTEN, ALL YOU OF JUDAH AND YOU INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, AND YOU JEHOSHAPHAT! THUS, SAYS THE LORD TO*

***YOU: “DO NOT BE AFRAID NOR DISMAYED BECAUSE OF THE GREAT
MULTITUDE, FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD’S.””***

Dear Lord, I’m tired of waiting for results. Help me to see what You are doing. DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I’M ASKING? DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE ME OR STRETCH ME IN SOME WAY? HELP ME TO TRUST YOU WITH THE RESULTS. YOU LEAD, AND I’LL KEEP FOLLOWING. AMEN.