



The Battle Belongs to The Lord

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

● **OPENING:** SOME DAY YOU ARE GOING TO FACE A CRISIS...

- ▶ **Jesus promised:** “In this world you will have trouble...”
- ▶ **Quote:** “Adversity doesn’t build character; it reveals it.”
- ▶ **Crisis reveals who you really are — so who are you?**
- ▶ Today we’re going to see a great biblical example of how to respond when the overwhelming crisis arrives at your front door.

● **THE MAIN POINT:** When the battles of life are bigger than us, worship is the posture through which we seek God’s presence, hear His Word, trust His promises, and experience His power. (When you live like this, you can truly say — **THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD.**)

(2 Chronicles 20:15, 17) —

¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, *for the battle is not yours but God’s* ...

¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you. ¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord.

The story of Jehoshaphat, the 4th king of Judah...

◆ #1 — Who Are You Before The Crisis Comes?

(2 Chronicles 17:3-6) —

The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because *he walked in the earlier ways of his father David*. He did not seek the Baals, ⁴ but *sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments*, and not according to the practices of Israel. ⁵ Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. ⁶ *His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord*. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah.

- **He was a godly king — with the heart of a WORSHIPER!**
 - ▶ He walked in the ways of David — seeking God and walking in his commandments.
 - ▶ His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord.
 - ▶ He took down the high places and idols
- **He taught the people the Word of God —**
 - ▶ He sent out his officials and the Levites — (2 Chronicles 17:9) — And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the Lord with them. They went about through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.
- **(He wasn't perfect) Without seeking God, He made an alliance with Ahab —**
 - ▶ In Chapter 18, he nearly dies fighting in Ahab's battle.
 - ▶ God sent the prophet Jehu to rebuke him for this — *(2 Chronicles 19:3) — “Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asheroth out of the land, and *have set your heart to seek God*.”
- **He worked to turn the people to God —**
 - ▶ (2 Chronicles 19:4) — Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and *brought them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers*.
- **He commissioned godly judges —**
 - ▶ (2 Chronicles 19:5-7) — He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶ and said to the judges, “Consider what you do, for *you judge not for man but for the Lord*. He is with you in giving judgment. ⁷ Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes.”

Before the Crisis Comes — WORSHIP!



#2 — Who Are You When The Crisis Comes?

(Verses 1-4) —

After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. ² Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). ³ Then *Jehoshaphat was afraid* and *set his face to seek the Lord*, and *proclaimed a fast* throughout all Judah. ⁴ And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

He is afraid - (Why?)

- It was a coalition of wicked nations coming against them (the bad guys)
- “A great multitude” - This phrasing means, an overwhelming force, far beyond Judah’s ability
- “They are in Hazazon-tamar” - They are close, only about a day to two days away

● **NOTE:** We are going to be afraid (**This is the real battle: Fear vs Faith**)
(Psalm 56:3-4) — When I am afraid, *I put my trust in you*. ⁴In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

He responds with — WORSHIP!

- (Vs 4) - “*He set his face to seek the Lord*” —
 - *Set his face* — He is fully orienting himself toward God — He is “all in” seeking God’s presence, God’s direction, God’s intervention, and God Himself.
 - (Isaiah 26:3) — You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed [fixed] on you, because he trusts in you.
- (Vs 4) - “*He proclaimed a fast throughout all of Judah*” —
 - Fasting says — *Our greatest need right now isn’t food. Our greatest need is God*
 - The fast created a united posture of dependance upon God.
- **He assembled all the people to seek God’s help** —
 - They has an “in-person” family meeting with God
 - The Promise of God for His gathered people — (Matthew 18:20) — For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
 - (Hebrews 10:24-25) — And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
(*We’re willing to miss because we’re not expecting God to show up.*)
- **This is godly leadership! — Godward Leadership**

When The Crisis Comes — WORSHIP!

#3 — Who Are You During The Waiting?

(Verses 5-12) —

And 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? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

⁷ Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

⁸ And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and *you will hear and save.*’

¹⁰ And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— ¹¹ behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For *we are powerless* against this great horde that is coming against us. *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*”

He cries out to God — (He Prays) — WORSHIP!

- This is what you do when You’re waiting on God to deliver and help

How did he pray?

- **He begins with praise (vs 6) —**
 - Praise silences the voice of the enemy — (Psalm 8:2, NIV) — Through the *praise* of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, *to silence* the foe and the avenger. (A *stronghold* is a place of refuge and defense. So praise creates a place of refuge and defense against the enemy.)
 - God is enthroned on our praise — (Psalm 22:3) — ...You are holy, *enthroned* on the praises of Israel.
- **He recounts God’s promises (vs 9)**
 - Reflecting on God’s promises is a great way to boost your faith (and remind God)
- **He states the situation and makes his petition (vs 10-12a)**
 - “*Will you not execute judgment on them?*” — Ask God specific things
- **He recognizes his weakness and puts full reliance upon God (vs 12b)**
 - “*For we are powerless* against this great horde that is coming against us. *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*”

During The Waiting — WORSHIP!

God Speaks

(Verses 13-17) —

Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, *for the battle is not yours but God’s*.

¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ *You will not need to fight in this battle*. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”

God is true to His word and shows up — *(He speaks)*

- Jahaziel – is a Levite, part of the group who are the singers and musicians. Their responsibility was to be worshiping before the Lord day and night in the temple (as set in place by King David) — **God speaks through one of the worship leaders!**

● **NOTE:** *This is especially significant, given the worshipful nature of this whole story*

God takes full responsibility for their salvation and deliverance

- (Vs 17) — ... Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, ¹⁵ for *the battle is not yours but God’s*. — THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD!

This can be one of the hardest things for us to do - *(not fight)*

- (Vs 17) — ... *You will not need to fight in this battle*. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf.

◆ #4 — Who Are You After God Speaks?

(Verses 18-19) —

Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his *face to the ground*, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem *fell down* before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. ¹⁹ And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, *stood up* to *praise* the Lord, the God of Israel, with *a very loud voice*.

He responds with — WORSHIP!

- The Word from God filled them with faith and led them to worship
 - (Romans 10:17, NKJV) — So then *faith* comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- **NOTE:** So often, what we really need is not a miracle, but simply for God to speak—filling us with faith in Who He is, in what He has said, and His power to save and deliver.

They took the posture of a worshiper (led by Jehoshaphat)

- Then Jehoshaphat *bowed his head* with his *face to the ground*
- all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem *fell down* before the LORD
- The Levites... *stood up* to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with *a very loud voice*.

After God Speaks — WORSHIP!

◆ #5 — Who Are You During The Battle?

(Verses 20-23) —

²⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! *Believe* in the Lord your God, and you will be established; *believe* his prophets, and you will succeed.” ²¹ And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed *those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army*, and say,

“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his steadfast love endures forever.”

²² And *when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush* against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

²³ For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

He went into battle believing and — WORSHIPING!

- (Vs 21) — Jehoshaphat sends the worshipers out in front of the army
 - With praise and thanksgiving (before the battle is won)

● Worship is Warfare

When Saul was tormented by an evil spirit —

- (1 Samuel 16:23) — And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David *took the lyre and played it* with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

Paul and Silas in prison —

- (Acts 16:25–26) — About midnight Paul and Silas were *praying and singing hymns to God*, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened.

● **NOTE:** Music & worship should be an intentional part of your life

- Do battle with worship
- Fill your life with “Jesus Music”
- Demons tremble at the name of Jesus (James 2:19)

During The Battle — WORSHIP!

◆ #6 — Who Are You After The Victory?

(Verses 24-30) —

When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.
²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were *three days in taking the spoil*, it was so much.

²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the *Valley of Beracah*, for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

²⁷ Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem *with joy*, for the Lord had made them *rejoice over their enemies*. ²⁸ They came to Jerusalem *with harps* and *lyres* and *trumpets*, to the house of the Lord. ²⁹ And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

The glory of God turned a bad thing into a good thing (Blessing!)

- There was so much spoil it took three days to gather it
- They called the place the Valley of Blessing

He leads the people to respond in — WORSHIP!

- (Vs 27) - "...with Jehoshaphat at their head" — returning to Jerusalem *with joy*.
- (Vs 29) - They came to Jerusalem *with harps* and *lyres* and *trumpets*, to the house of the Lord.

After The Victory — WORSHIP!

◆ Closing — Crisis is Going to Come

Who are you?

- **Before the Crisis Comes — WORSHIP!**
 - Get your life oriented towards God
 - Tear down the high places — get the worldliness out of your life (the idols of the world)
 - Pursue knowing God through His Word — *make it the priority of your life!*
- **When crisis comes — WORSHIP!**
 - Set your face to seek the Lord. Fast and pray.
- **During the waiting — WORSHIP!**
 - Pray, pray, pray
 - Believe God's promises
- **When God speaks to you — WORSHIP!**
 - Believe Him - Bow before him, stand and sing His praises with a very loud voice!
- **During the battle — WORSHIP!**
 - Believe & obey whatever God tells you
 - Go to the battle with songs of praise and thanksgiving
 - Let God fight your battle!
- **When God brings victory and deliverance — WORSHIP!**
 - Give thanks. Bless the Lord and give Him praise!

● This is what our Sundays should be all about —

- Everyone here is at one of the stages in this story.
- At every stage — Jehoshaphat worshiped God.
- And God fought the battle for him!

● Who are you?

- When the crisis comes, it will reveal who you really are.
- **Choose faith in God at every moment!**

THE MAIN POINT: When the battles of life are bigger than us, worship is the posture through which we seek God's presence, hear His Word, trust His promises, and experience His power. **(If you live like this, you can truly say — THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD).**