

2 Chronicles Chapter 20 – Jehoshaphat’s Prayer; God’s Victory!

2/23/19 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH! – William Williams – sung by Joslin Grove Choir

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty, Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand. Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliv’rer, strong Deliv’rer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield; Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death and hell’s Destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee

King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles Chapters 17-20)

Although he made some unwise decisions, he was one of Judah’s greatest kings. He not only sought God himself, but he sent the priests among the people to teach them the way of the Lord. **His first mistake was to marry into the godless family of Israel’s King Ahab**, a worshiper of Baal and the husband of wicked Queen Jezebel. It was a marriage of political convenience so that Ahab would be allied with Jehoshaphat. Solomon used this approach to secure treaty rights with other nations (1Ki 3:1). By making peace with the king of Israel, Jehoshaphat compromised his position politically and religiously. Jehoshaphat’s **second mistake was to unite with Ahab in fighting Israel’s enemies**. Ahab was not different of opinion, but of his Godless character! Ahab talked Jehoshaphat into wearing royal robes into battle, which made him a ready target, but God protected Jehoshaphat and saw to it that Ahab was slain. This event ought not to encourage us to sin, because God isn’t obligated to protect us when we are out of His will (Psa 91:9-16). **His third mistake was to ally himself with wicked King Ahaziah in an attempt to gain wealth** (2Ch 20:35-37). God wrecked the ships and put the whole enterprise to an end. It’s unfortunate when godly people sometimes lack discernment and get themselves involved in alliances that can only help the enemy and bring disgrace to the name of the Lord.

Jehoshaphat’s Prayer - 2Ch 20:6-12

2Ch 20:1 *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.*

2Ch 20:2 *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).*

2Ch 20:3 *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.* This is a recurring theme in 2 Chronicles: the leaders who seek the LORD. We can **expect God to do great things when His people, and especially the leaders of His people, seek the Him.**

2Ch 20:4 *So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.*

2Ch 20:5 *Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,*

2Ch 20:6 *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? (Jehoshaphat reminded himself of the greatness of God!! We need to say it!) difficulty of situation has to be measured by the ability of the agent that’s doing the work!)*

2Ch 20:7 *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? (a self-reminder of God doing such great things in the past!)*

2Ch 20:8 *And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,*

2Ch 20:9 *'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.' (Here he claims a promise of God – so important! Always look in God’s Word for a promise of God relating to our need, and claim that promise! LORD, do as You have said!)*

2Ch 20:10 *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— (We don’t need to inform God of the details, He already knows, but Jehoshaphat needs to explain God had given the land to Israel! It’s Your possession! You have given it to us!)*

2Ch 20:11 *here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.*

2Ch 20:12 *O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." (The gaze of faith! Jehoshaphat as the leader says we have no power. But it isn’t left to us – our eyes are on You! All glory to You!)*

2Ch 20:13 *Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.*

2Ch 20:14 *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. (A beautiful prophecy, speaking for God – a great example of a word of wisdom and a word of prophecy in all the Bible!)*

2Ch 20:15 *And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'*

2Ch 20:16 *Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.*

2Ch 20:17 *You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you." (not to engage in battle, but to watch the LORD act!)*

2Ch 20:18 *And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.*

2Ch 20:19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

2Ch 20:20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.**"

2Ch 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "**Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.**"

2Ch 20:22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

2Ch 20:23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

The Lord Delivers Judah

2Ch 20:24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

2Ch 20:25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

2Ch 20:26 And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

2Ch 20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

2Ch 20:28 So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. **A very important part of prayer is to thank the LORD!**

2Ch 20:29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

2Ch 20:30 Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

2Ch 20:31 So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

2Ch 20:32 And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD.

2Ch 20:33 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

2Ch 20:34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

SUMMARY:

- Jehoshaphat had been so blessed. No need for Ahaziah alliance. We are never to align ourselves with the wicked!
- 2Ch 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. When the leaders seek the LORD. We can expect God to do great things when His people, especially the leaders, seek Him. (Rehoboam remnant Chap 11; Asa Chap 14-15; Jehoshaphat Chap 19; Hezekiah Chap 31; Josiah Chap 34)
- 2Ch 20:8 Jehoshaphat claims a promise of God – so important! Always look in God's Word for a promise of God relating to our need, and claim that promise! LORD, do as You have said!
- 2Ch 20:12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." (The gaze of faith! Jehoshaphat as the leader says we have no power. But it isn't left to us – our eyes are on You! All glory to You!
- 2Ch 20:14-15 Prayer answered through a prophet – "the battle is not yours but God's"! "Stand and believe"!
- 2Ch 20:18-19 Responding with worship and praise!
- 2Ch 20:20-21 Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper!
- 2Ch 20:22-30 God gives victory and abundant spoil!
- 2Ch 20:33 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God

Holy, Holy, Holy – Reginald Heber, London Orchestra Festival

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity. AMEN! (Refrain)

Pray for World Leaders, including: Donald Trump – USA; Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Theresa May – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com