

Fasting

Part 7

“After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.² Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi).³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard⁶ and said: “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.⁷ O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?⁸ They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying,⁹ ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’¹⁰ “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them.¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance.¹² O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”¹³ All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.¹⁵ He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.”¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.¹⁹ Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.²⁰ Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.”²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.”²² As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of

Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.²³ The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.²⁴ When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped.²⁵ So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it.²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Beracah to this day.²⁷ Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies.²⁸ They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.²⁹ The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.³⁰ And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.” (2Chronicles 20:1-29)

The above event had happened during the reign of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah who was a righteous king and did his part to serve the Lord. As he and the whole Judah were attacked by the three big armies, who were bigger and mightier than them, they resort to come to the Lord united in prayer and in fasting asking the Lord for help. The Israelites when they went out from Egypt they did not invade the land of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, for the Lord did not allow them to do that, but now those people are invading the land of Judah. Therefore King Jehoshaphat who was leading the people in prayer and fasting prayed to the LORD: “¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance.¹² O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.” The people they came with full trust in the LORD that he can help them to deal with their enemies. In their fasting they expressed to the Lord that they don’t have power and strength to deal with the enemy and they don’t know what to do. They came to the LORD in fasting asking him the strength, the power and the things they need to do to face those enemies. Indeed the LORD helped them to achieve that. He encouraged them, removed their fears with his prophetic message, instructed them what they need to do, He fought the battle for them, and gave them huge plunder

My dear and Beloved: The Lord will do the same for you. Even you are facing big problem and huge force more than what you can bear. God can help you in all that; He will instruct you in what you need to do, He will fight the battle for you and you will have the harvest. Trust Him fully and commit your cause and problem unto Him as you agree to fast and pray.

My Prayer: Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Dear LORD thank you for your blessed word to me. O LORD I put in your hand through prayer and fasting the following situation, _____ . LORD I have no strength to face this big problem, I don’t know what to do but my eyes are upon you. Lord you promised that the battle is your, I fully trust that you will do it for me and save me miraculously from this situation. LORD instruct me of what I need to do, fight the battle for me and deliver me, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.