

Lessons to Win The Battle

¹After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites^[a] came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.² Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom,^[b] from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon 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: “LORD, the God of our ancestors, 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 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 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 on 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 on 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, 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 down 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^[c] 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 Ammonites and Moabites 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^[d] 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 Berakah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah^[e] 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 lyres and trumpets.²⁹ The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms 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.” (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

In the above passage that we read we found king Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah is under threat being attacked by a vast army made of three groups came united against them. Now here there is a war going on and battle they need to face. King Jehoshaphat and the whole kingdom need to face the threat and go to the battle. From the passage we learn certain facts we can apply in our lives. As believer in God and followers of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life, the passage we read instructs us with good lessons we can apply even this day in our daily battles against Satan and all its schemes.

1- Faith is required: When Jehoshaphat heard the news, he called all the people and proclaim prayer and fasting and people come together seeking help from the Lord. Problems should not be the reason for you to be weakening in faith. Problems that God would allow to come in our lives His purpose from allowing that is to make us strong in faith. Not to shrink and draw back but to trust in God more. We use our weapon in prayer and fasting to face the problem.

2- Holiness in life and transparency is needed: Jehoshaphat when faced the problem he shared the critic of the situation with all the people, so they will fast and pray and intercede so God will rise and solve the problem. Jehoshaphat was able to do that because he did not do wrong. It is not his fault it is his enemy fault. The same for you, when you have not done wrong it is not your fault that people making troubles against you. As long as you live in holiness and transparency then you don't need to be ashamed of anything as long as everything is pure and clean before

God. But when you live in sin and hidden agenda and impure things are there, then you will be overtaken by the enemy. But take heart my friend there is still a way for you as you repent of your sins then God will work in your behalf.

3- “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13): Troubles could be a good way for you to repent, confess your sins and renounce them, then you will find mercy and God shall work for your behalf.

4- Have confidence in the Lord: King Jehoshaphat approached God’s throne in confidence. Acknowledging that God is King and the ruler of all nations and everything under His care and power. He also claim the promises of God and trusted Him, as he said to the Lord what He had promised, **“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.” (2 Chronicles 20:9)** The same for us we need to approach the Lord in confidence and to present to Him our problems and what we want Him to do for us, **“Our God, will you not judge them?”**

5- Practice justice: King Jehoshaphat presented to the Lord the case clearly; that they had obeyed Him by doing the right thing and did not invade or take the rights of others, while others they are the one invading their territory and try to take their rights. Now if you live in obedience to God and live in justice and respect others and give everyone what is due for Him then God will be the one to fight your enemies. **“By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.” (Proverbs 29:4)** To practice justice is very important, partiality and unfairness God will not be pleased with.

6- Unity: **“All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 20:13)** When you have a problem, to solve it, unity is important and this God wants to see in us. Unity in mind and thought and what goes in accord to His Word. All the family members needs to be united so God will work for our behalf.

7- Coming to the Lord and seeking Him brings the assuring message from the Lord: As the people comes to the Lord, they receive the assuring message from Him. The Lord inspired one of the Levites, those who committed their lives to God, to speak His message. When King Jehoshaphat presented the problem to the Lord in His prayers God send His assuring message to His people, **“You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:17)** As we come to God, seeking His help through prayer we receive from Him the assurance and the confidence and our hearts and minds be filled with peace as the promise of God assure us, **“Do not be anxious about**

anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7) God will continue to assure us in all our struggles that He is there with us to fight our battles.

8- Out of the flowing of the heart the mouth speak: As we receive the assuring message from the Lord our faith and trust increase and our confidence in Him that He is the one to fight our battle and enable us to win and have the victory; this will be translated into awesome worship and praise unto our God. In such circumstances we praise the Lord and we thank Him and we encourage one another to do the following: **“Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.”**

9- Faith in God and in His people who bring to us the message: Those who teach and admonish and disciple using the Word of God they are bringing God’s prophetic message of salvation and deliverance, and to accept the message is to accept God’s provision in your life.

10- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:4-5) Don’t doubt how God will fight for you. In every battle that you pass through God will be there to fight for you and will do something beyond your imagination, understanding and beyond what you had asked. God fought the enemy of Jehoshaphat by making ambushes against the invading armies, caused them to fight each other and they got defeated.

11- The Battle is God and the victory is ours: Jesus fought the battle on Calvary and we have victory and the plunder. When an enemy is invading our territory then that is not a trouble but the way to be blessed and collect the plunder from the enemy that is invading us.

12- Give the Lord the praise and testify about His goodness to you: God’s great miracle in your life should be the reason for you to be transformed and reward God His faithfulness toward you.

My Dear and Beloved: God’s fear was upon all the Kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. The same God will do for you as you trust in Him, and you will have the peace, for God will give you rest on every site as your agree to trust in the Lord and pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord give me wisdom and understanding to digest all Your Word and what you have taught me. Lord help me to trust you, walk in your ways and apply all that in my life. This is my prayer and song of praise in Jesus name, Amen.*