

April 13, 2026  
Women's Study  
2 Chronicles 20 Jehoshaphat's Prayer

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Tonight, I would like to look at one of the most powerful accounts of prayer found in the Word of God. The prayer of King Jehoshaphat, a man devoted to prayer. And it is found in 2 Chronicles chapter 20.

### 2 Chronicles 20:1-37

Oh, how rich this chapter is!!! There are precious jewels tucked within each verse of this chapter.

<sup>1</sup> It happened after this [after the battle of Ramoth-Gilead, and Jehoshaphat's reformation of law and religion] that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. <sup>2</sup> 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).

a. **It happened after this:** This threat to Jehoshaphat and his kingdom happened after his return to seeking God, following his near-death when he allied himself with King Ahab of Israel.

b. **The people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat:** This **great multitude** was a significant threat against Jehoshaphat, whose last experience on the field of battle was a narrow escape from death.

Who or what is coming to battle against you? Often times we are attacked after resolving to walk closer to the Lord, often times it is when we are the most weary or tired or battle worn.

<sup>3</sup> And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. <sup>4</sup> So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

Jehoshaphat was afraid and because of that he set himself to seek the Lord.

Take notice what he did immediately and without hesitation; when he was afraid:

- He set His face to seek the Lord

"He set himself" other Bible versions say: he resolved; he turned his attention to; devoted himself; he decided to; he betook himself wholly.

His attitude is summed up by the word 'seek', which occurs twice in Hebrew though it is variously translated.... This is a key word in Jehoshaphat's reign, where it has the basic

sense of 'worship' but also means to discover God's will. It shows that Jehoshaphat has a higher trust in God than in his military resources. (Selman)

Prayer honors God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power,  
adores His providence and secures His aid.

- E. M. Bounds

- He proclaimed a fast
- He gathered together the people of Judah to ask help from the Lord

When you are facing a battle; it is always wise to ask those women that you trust to seek the Lord together with you.

### **Psalm 27:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> *When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

When you are afraid; set yourself to seek the Lord; be resolved; turn your attention to the Lord, be devoted to seek the Lord, decide to seek the Lord; betake yourself wholly to seeking the Lord!

Is there what seems an army, a multitude, coming against you? If so, if you find yourself afraid don't be too hard on yourself, Jehoshaphat was afraid too.

Where do you run when you afraid? Do you purposefully set your face toward God? Or do you allow your fears to strangle you within? Do your fears draw you to focus within rather than to focus upward?

Fear is your focus; it can be bigger than life! Fear paralyzes, strangles, discourages, and distorts truth.

Quote

"Fear creates a form of spiritual amnesia. It dulls our miracle memory. It makes us forget what Jesus has done and how good God is."

### **Isaiah 35:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

### **Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.<sup>1</sup>

### **Psalm 118:6-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? <sup>7</sup> The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore, I shall see *my desire* on those who hate me.

You must place your trust in God!

Jehoshaphat not only set himself to seek the LORD and he also proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

Prayer coupled with fasting is throughout the Word of God.

We see Daniel setting his face toward God and then fasting as well!

### **Daniel 9:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

Esther called a nation to fast and pray!

When you find yourself facing a big obstacle in your life; I cannot encourage you enough to fast and pray? Ask a friend to join you; maybe designate one day a week.

When we cry for help, He hears us!!!

### **Psalm 34:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

### **Psalm 18:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, *even* to His ears.

### **Exodus 22:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> If you afflict them in any way, *and* they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry;

Don't you feel humbled that this great and awesome God hears us!

<sup>5</sup> Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, <sup>6</sup> 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?"

I love the way this verse starts out. He stations himself and stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem; in the house of the Lord!

When facing fear, we must not retreat, sit nor give up, rather we are to stand.

The Hebrew meaning for the word stand denotes more than physical posture, it represents a firm intentional and spiritual position of readiness, obedience and abiding faith before God.

It represents remaining faithful and unmoved.

### **Ephesians 6:14**

<sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Notice that Jehosophat doesn't retrieve from the people or from the house of God.

Oh, how we need to position ourselves among our Christian family, in church, especially when we are afraid!

And then he begins his prayer - by proclaiming that God is the God of his Fathers; he declares where God resides – in heaven; (he recalls God's lofty location) he remembers Gods rulership; His hand of power might! After praying this he can't help to express his confidence in God by declaring that no one is able to withstand God!

### **Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. <sup>4</sup> *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*

Ladies, in prayer we must remember who He is and what He has done for us in the past. When we do; we can utterly rest in Him and trust in Him and stand before Him while facing the battle at hand.

He is the God above all gods.  
He is sovereign ruler over all.  
His hand is the hand of power and might.

### **Exodus 15:6**

"Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power;  
Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

### **Deuteronomy 7:19**

<sup>19</sup>the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

### **Psalms 118:15-16**

The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
*is* in the tents of the righteous;

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.  
<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

### **Jeremiah 32:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> 'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

### **Jeremiah 32:21**

<sup>21</sup> You have brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror;

### **2 Chronicles 20:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> And they dwell in it and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, <sup>9</sup> '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.'

Firstly, he proclaims ownership to God! Are you not our God? He proclaims his allegiance to God. It doesn't matter what comes our way we will stand in Your house, Oh Lord and in Your presence!

He says we will stand in Your name and in the House of the Lord; no matter what happens.

Where Gods' presence is, they will be there too.

We cry out in affliction and You will hear and save. Notice how Jehoshaphat recalls God as the God who saves.

Cry out to Him in your afflictions because He hears you and He is the God Who saves.

Matthew Henry:

In all dangers, public or personal, our first business should be to seek help from God. Hence the advantage of days for national fasting and prayer. From the first to the last of our seeking the Lord, we must approach him with humiliation for our sins, trusting only in his mercy and power. Jehoshaphat acknowledges the sovereign dominion of the Divine Providence. Lord, exert it on our behalf. Whom should we seek to, whom should we trust to for relief, but the God we have chosen and served. Those that use what they have for God, may comfortably hope he will secure it to them. Every true believer is a son of Abraham, a friend of God; with such the everlasting covenant is established, to such every promise belongs. We are assured of God's love, by his dwelling in human nature in the person of the Savior. Jehoshaphat mentions the temple, as a token of God's favorable presence.

When you stand in His presence; His favor is poured over you.

<sup>10</sup> 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-- <sup>11</sup> here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

Matthew Henry:

He pleads the injustice of his enemies. We may well appeal to God against those that render us evil for good.

#### **Psalm 109:4**

In return for my love, they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer.

<sup>12</sup> 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."

Though Jehoshaphat had a great army, he said, "We have no might without thee; we rely upon thee."

I absolutely love Jehoshaphat's complete surrender and trust in the midst of an overwhelming; too big to humanly handle; situation that he finds himself in.

What are you facing tonight? What seems too big for you to handle? What has left you helpless in knowing what to do about it?

Like Jehosophat, lift up your heart and fix your eyes upon God! The One who can handle any situation no matter how bleak, hopeless and impossible it may be to you.

#### **Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> "Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

He was relying on the strength and righteous judgment of His God.

He, along with the people of Judah were seeking advice and direction, help and protection; their eyes were lifted up in prayer to Him, and their souls, of faith, hope, expectation, and desire, were fastened onto Him.

Are you fastened onto God!

Fastened is defined as:

To bolt, lock, secure, seal, to be attached, affixed.

Fasten is a verb, it is an action word which means to securely close or attach something in place to lock or clasp; like a seat belt.

We must be fastened to God, attached and affixed to Him because when the battle rages we will have a blessed assurance in Him, a trust in Him.

Each time you need to fasten your seat belt; ask yourself am I fastened onto God? Is my heart and mind and problems clasped onto Him?

We must be ever so close to Him; so that we are always longing to hear from Him, receive direction from Him in the simplest situations in our life; and in the most difficult ones.

<sup>13</sup> Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD. <sup>14</sup> 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.

I love this, with all their little ones. Oh, how we need to teach our children when they are little how to depend on and trust in their God and to set their eyes on Him and to stand before the Lord.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

The battle is not yours, but God's.

David also expressed this truth when going up against Goliath, the giant in 1 Samuel 17:40-47.

The beautiful thing about this account is that it's a perfect example of how God operates. He magnifies HIS name when we are weak. We don't have to be eloquent or strong or beautiful or physically fit or handsome. We don't have to be well-traveled or brilliant or have all the answers to be blessed of God. He honors our faith. All He asks is that we trust Him, that we stand before Him in integrity and faith, and He'll win the battle. God is just waiting for His moment, waiting for us to trust Him so He can empower us to battle our giants.

Remember, Goliath was a giant . . . an imposing presence. David had all the odds against him. There wasn't a guy in the Philistine camp—or probably the Israelite camp either—who would have bet on David. But David didn't need their backing. He needed God—none other. After picking up the stones, he approached the gigantic Philistine warrior.

The shepherd boy made the giant smile. What a joke! Just imagine! David stood before this massive creature unintimidated!

Intimidation. That's our MAJOR battle when we face giants. When they intimidate us, we get tongue-tied. Our thoughts get confused. We forget how to pray. We focus on the odds against us. We forget whom we represent, and we stand there with our knees knocking. I wonder what

God must think, when all the while He has promised us, "My power is available. There's no one on this earth greater. *Oh, we must trust Him!*

Be assured, David's eyes weren't on the giant. Intimidation played no part in his life. What a man! His eyes were fixed on God. With invincible confidence in his God, David responded, "that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's" (17:47). There it is. That's the secret of David's life. "The battle is the LORD's."

Are you trying to fight your own battle? Trying to do things your way? Trying to outsmart the enemy, outfox him? You can't. But God can. And He's saying to you, "the battle is Mine."

God is just waiting for us to trust Him so He can empower us to battle our giants.  
Charles R. Swindoll

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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."

When God is with us, we need not be afraid and we need not fight! The battle is not yours, the but Gods'.

We need not fight against opposing armies!

God is with us and is for us and goes before us. We can be courageous and free from fear!

In these two verses we hear the instruction of the Lord, oh how completely amazing are His instructions; and followed by 2 amazing promises; God says:

- You will not need to fight in the battle!! - This is God's promise of provision.
- Position yourselves – be fixed before Him, fasten yourself to Him.
- Stand still – Stand assured, stand in readiness and while standing, be still and quiet and wait for His promise.

#### **Exodus 14:14**

The Lord will fight for you and you will hold your peace.

Be still and know the Power and strength of God.

Be still means quiet confidence, quiet assurance and quiet trust.

Let me bow in stillness before God and wait on Him to reveal  
Himself as the prayer-hearing God.  
Andrew Murray

- And See the salvation of the Lord - He is the God who saves!
- Don't be afraid go out against them; for God is with you!

### Johsua 1:9

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go."

<sup>18</sup> 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.

Can you imagine this scene? Their leader bowing face down before God and all of Judah and the little ones and the older ones and everyone in between bowing face down before God!!!!

And what were they doing? They were worshipping Him!!!!

He starts his prayer with worship in verse 6 and ends it with worship in verse 18.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> 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."

Believe in your Lord and you will be established, you will be settled, stable, fixed and steadfast.

Notice what they were saying, "Praise the LORD, For His mercy *endures* forever."

This verse is Identical with the first verse of [Psalm 118](#), which is probably a very ancient formula, and one used at the finished construction both of the first temple in ([2 Chronicles 5:13](#)) and of the second temple in ([Ezra 3:11](#)).

In Psalm 106 - *His mercy endureth forever*; is repeated in every verse of this song, but not once too often. It is the sweetest stanza that a man can sing. What joy that there is mercy: mercy with Jehovah, enduring mercy, mercy enduring forever. We are ever needing it, trying it, praying for it, receiving it: therefore, let us forever sing of it.

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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.

God caused the enemy to destroy one another.

Some use this passage to teach that all you have to do is sing worship songs and satan will be defeated.

That is not what this passage is teaching although there is power in worshipping the Lord.

Jehosophat and Judah were simply following God's leading and directive; in this situation.

Whatever great multitude you are facing tonight; we have the same God as Jehoshaphat. You must follow His leading and His directions. Remind yourself of what he and his people were told:

You will not need to fight in the battle!!  
Position yourselves  
Stand still

Ladies, stand still in whatever battle you are facing and He will battle for you.

You can't help worshipping God if you are positioned before Him, being still to proclaim His character! They were reminding themselves of His power, His might and His ability to overcome anything that life puts in their paths.

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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 [the valley of blessing] until this day.

<sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. <sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

God gives us rest all around.

**Psalm 23:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul...

When we seek Him and obey Him, when we trust fully in Him; He gives rest all around.

Trust in your God. The battle is His.

The only way we can develop an unmoving trust in God is by being devoted to prayer and His Word. It is by Knowing God and by knowing the promises of God.

Next time we will be focusing on how to develop more of a knowledge of God in order to pray proclaiming His character. When we know Him, we can fully trust Him, we can fully fastened ourselves onto Him.

Let's pray.