

HAPPY THANKSGIVING 2021

2 Chronicles 20:2 (NIV) “Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, ‘A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in [En Gedi].’”

Jehoshaphat humbles himself before God.

2 Chronicles 20:3-4 (NIV) “Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.”

Jehoshaphat prays to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:5-6 (NIV) “Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard ⁶and 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.’”

2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV) “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?”

2 Chronicles 20:12_b (NIV) “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.”

2 Chronicles 20:13 (NIV) “All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.”

God speaks!

2 Chronicles 20:14-15 (NIV) “Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel . . . ¹⁵He 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.’”

2 Chronicles 20:17 (NIV) “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.”

2 Chronicles 20:18 (NIV) “Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.”

Jehoshaphat puts the worshipers in front.

2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV) “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.’”

2 Chronicles 20:22-23 (NIV) “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. ²³The 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.”

2 Chronicles 20:24 (NIV) “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.”

HOW DO YOU LET GOD FIGHT YOUR BATTLES?

1. Seek the Lord with other believers.

2 Chronicles 20:4 (NIV) “The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.”

Psalms 22:3 (ESV) “Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.”

Psalms 35:18 (NIV) “I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.”

2. Sing and thank God for His holiness and love.

2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV) “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.’”

Acts 16:25-26 (NIV) “About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns** to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.”

3. Stand firm and don't give in to fear and discouragement.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (NIV) “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.”

4. Don't forget to say thank you for God's deliverance.

2 Chronicles 20:26 (NIV) “[Four days later] 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.”