

**God Chaser:  
Part 4 - The Power of Praise**

**2 Chronicles 20:1-3, 15 - 30 NKJV**

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. <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). <sup>3</sup> And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah...

<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. <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." <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. <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. (they bowed down, they stood up, they shouted). <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." <sup>22</sup> Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes ( a surprise attack) 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. (they began attacking each other) <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. <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,<sup>[b]</sup> 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<sup>[c]</sup> 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.

### **I. What Is Praise?**

- a. Acknowledging/ thanking God for what He *has done*, what He *is doing*, and what He *is going to do*
- b. Thanking Him for something that has not happened yet, as though it already has

### **II. Hebrew Words for Praise**

- a. HALAL- to boast in. It is part of the word hallelujah. (i.e. He is my healer, my way-maker, my deliverer)
- b. YADAH- extending hands with active strength
- c. TOWDAH- extending hands with a thankful and surrendered heart
- d. SHABACK- to shout loudly, to command
- e. BARAK- to kneel, to bow
- f. ZAMAR- to touch the strings (musical instruments)
- g. TEHILLAH- to sing praises with understanding

### **III. Who Is Praise For?**

- a. Praise is *to God*, but *for us*.

### **IV. When Should We Praise?**

- a. There are two times you praise God:
  - i. When you feel like it
  - ii. And when you don't
- b. Praising God is a choice we make based upon his word, *not how we feel*.

#### **Psalms 34:1**

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

#### **Hebrews 13:15**

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**V. Why Should We Praise?**

- a. We were created to praise Him.
- b. We are commanded to praise Him.
- c. He is worthy of our praise.
- d. He abides in the praises of His people.
- e. Our praise paralyses the enemy.
- f. Our praise moves heaven.