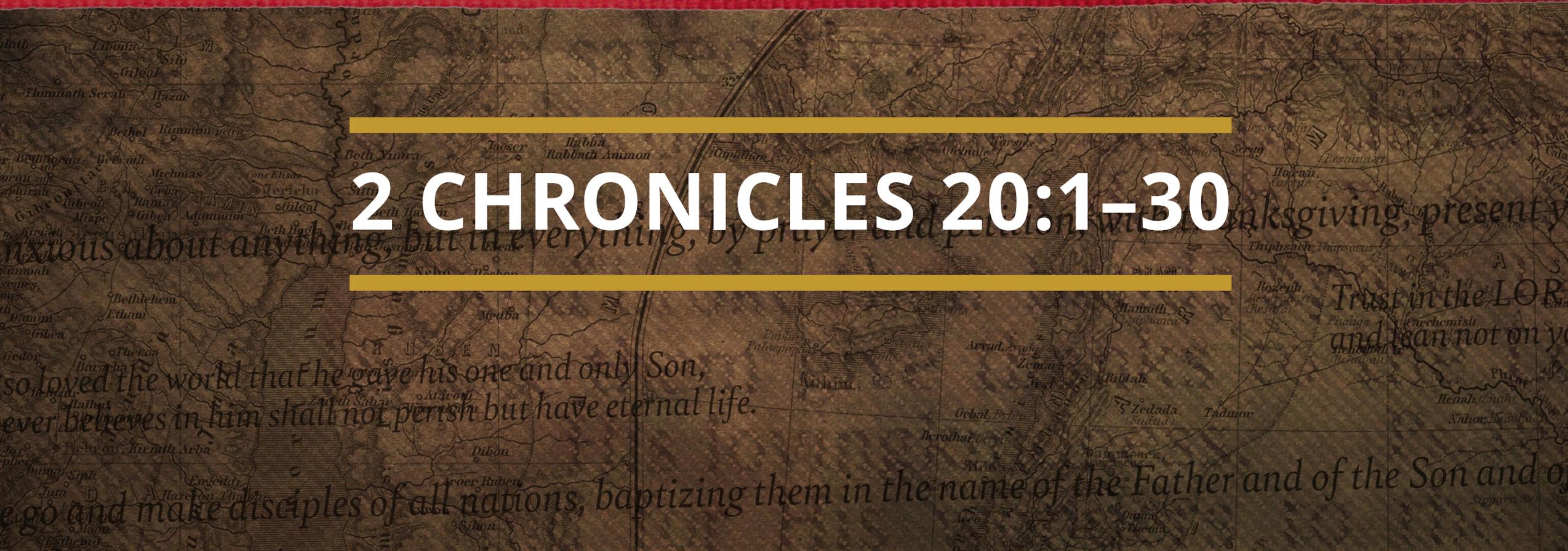




WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO



2 CHRONICLES 20:1-30

¹² For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You.

2 CHRONICLES 20:12

*People came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast number from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against **you**;*

— 2 Chronicles 20:2

Notice chapter 17 verses 3 and 10:

3 Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the former ways of his father David.

*10 The terror of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, **so they didn't fight against Jehoshaphat.***

1. OUR INITIAL REACTION IN CRISIS USUALLY REVEALS OUR DEEPEST VALUES. (vss. 1-4)

People came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast number from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you; they are already in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, En-gedi). Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the LORD. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, who gathered to seek the LORD. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him. — 2 Chronicles 20:1-4

A biblical definition of fear: Fear is the recognition that we lack the resources for the challenge confronting us.

2. GREAT THINGS HAPPEN TO US WHEN WE REALIZE OUR POWERLESS CONDITION. (vss. 5-12)

*"We do not know what to do,
but we look to You."*

— 2 Chronicles 20:12

Elements of a Great Prayer...

- A prayer of **simplicity**.
- A prayer of **faith**.

The king's faith was expressed by 3 questions:

...are You not the God who is in heaven? (vs, 6)

That's faith in what God has done.

...do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? (vs. 6)

That's faith in what God is doing.

...will You not judge them? (vs. 12)

That's faith in what God will do in the future.

3. GOD HAS A PLAN OF SUCCESS IF WE WILL JUST FOLLOW IT.

Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the LORD says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

— 2 Chronicles 20:15

Notice God's plan involved...

- **Timing.** Verse 16: "Tomorrow"
- **A path of obedience.** Verses 16–17: "...go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel."
- **Standing firm where God has sent you.** Verse 17: "You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the Lord is with you."

There are many times when the path of God's Word does not make a lot of sense to us, but that's where faith comes in. Faith means walking a path that doesn't seem sensible, and standing firm when most would run.

4. OUR WORSHIP RELEASES THE POWER OF GOD UPON OUR PROBLEMS. (vss. 18–30)

²⁰ *In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed."* ²¹ *Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the LORD and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing:*

2 CHRONICLES 20:20–21

*Give thanks to the LORD,
for His faithful love endures forever.*

²² The moment they began their shouts and praises, the LORD set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.

2 CHRONICLES 20:21-26

²⁴ When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the large army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped. ²⁵ Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to gather the plunder. They found among them an abundance of goods on the bodies and valuable items. So they stripped them until nobody could carry any more. They were gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much. ²⁶ They assembled in the Valley of Beracah on the fourth day, for there they praised the LORD. Therefore, that place is still called the Valley of Beracah today.

2 CHRONICLES 20:24-26

²⁹ The terror of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that Yahweh had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰ Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet, for his God gave him rest on every side.

2 CHRONICLES 20:29-30

Three summarizing questions:

1. Who, or what, do you trust with your life?
2. How do you see yourself when a crisis comes? (*Powerless or able to handle it?*)
3. What is your first reaction in a crisis?
(*Pray...worship...or count the size of your army?*)

If you are facing trouble today:

- **Acknowledge**

God is able to deal with any problem.

- **Admit**

You are helpless.

- **Always**

Lift your praises and worship to Him in the midst of your trial.