

## **TRUSTING GOD DURING DIFFICULT TIMES:**

### 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-30

1. THE ENEMIES: 2 Chr.20:1-4, 10-11, Deu. 2:4, 9, 19; Have you ever noticed that there are times when our enemies happen to be those to whom we granted favor.? The enemies of Judah were those nations that they were prohibited from destroying because God had given them the land they were inhabiting. Deuteronomy 2:4, 9, 19. This shows the character of God. He gave them the land and protected them. It also teaches us that even though we grant favors to someone, it does not necessarily mean that they will be our friends. They may even be our enemies, while they remain in our company.

2. JEHOSHAPHAT'S LEADERSHIP: 2 Chronic. 20:5-13, 18-25, 26-30; When the news got to Jehoshaphat that Judah was being attacked, he was fearful because of the size of the armies that were attacking his country, however; he did not panic. Let us examine what he did as a leader. (A) He gathered all the people into the house of God. (B) He led them in prayer. (C) He started his prayer with adoration. Acknowledging God for who He is. (v6-8) (D) He reminded God of His promise to them in His word. (V9) (E) He told God the problem that he was facing and reminded Him that the attackers were the very ones He told them not to destroy when they went to pass the land as their inheritance. It is so important to have God's word in our hearts so that we can pray them back to Him. That was what Jehoshaphat did. In 2 chronicles 6, Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord and asked Him to hear His people if they turned their faces towards the temple and prayed to Him. God answered Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, this was what He said; "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;

then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” Jehoshaphat simply prayed God’s promises to Him and said that they needed Him because they were at that place where their enemies had a massive army, and they were no match for them and to make matters worse, they were the very people that He told them not to touch when they went into their inheritance. God always honors His word, that is one of the reasons why we should pray them back to Him.

3. THE LORD ANSWERED: 2 Chro. 20:14-17; God answered him by giving a message to one of those in the prayer meeting. This was His answer, “Then 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, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

16 Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

2A) JEHOSHAPHAT’S LEADERSHIP: When he received the answer from the Lord, he worshiped the Lord. Notice he did not wait for the manifestation. He worshipped based on the word, he trusted God to fight his battle and considered it done. Too often we sit around waiting for the manifestation before we start giving thanks. Verses eighteen and nineteen say that he and all Judah bowed before the Lord in worship and praise. They got up early in the morning and

continued to praise and worship God. While they were praising God, He sent an ambush against their enemies, and they destroyed themselves. Oh! That we would learn to praise and worship God while we are under attack. The congregation woke up early in the morning and started to praise and worship God; and while they were praising, they were delivered from their enemies. Glory to God. They went into the enemies' camps and gathered the spoils which took them three days to collect. Then Jehoshaphat gathered the people on the fourth day before the Lord to thank Him for the victory, and they returned home joyfully. Fear was on all the inhabitants of the surrounding countries when they heard that the Lord fought their battles.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS STUDY?

- (A) God is faithful, He keeps His word. He gave the inheritance to the children of Esau and Lot and protected them. Deu. 2:4, 9 and 19.
- (B) He answers our prayers. 2 Chronicles 20:14-17.
- (C) He fights our battles when we go to him and seek His help. 2 Chr.20:15.
- (D) He will confuse our enemies and allow them to destroy themselves. 2 Chr. 20:22-24.
- (E) Sin will destroy us if we allow it to rule us. The children of Esau and Lot were given their inheritances and were protected by God, but when they were guided by sin to attack God's people; they destroyed each other. 2 Chr. 20:1-2, 22-24.
- (F) When the enemy attacks us we are to bring it to God. 2 Chr. 20:3-13.
- ( G) We are to pray God's word to Him, especially His promises, 2 Chr. 20:6-13)
- (H) We must practice praising and worshiping God while we are under attack. 2 Chr. 20:18-21.
- (I) God Delivered Judah from her attackers while they were praising and worshiping Him. 2 Chr. 20:22-24.

(J) The wealth of the wicked, became the treasure of God's people. 2 Chr. 20:25.

(K) We should remember to thank the Lord for delivering us from our enemies and for every victory. 2 Chr. 20:26-28

(L) When we allow God to fight our battles, those around us will learn to fear Him. 2 Chr. 20:29