

The Kings of Israel

Jehoshaphat – 2 Chronicles 20:1 – 30



Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

Moab (20:1 – 30). The mention of Moab caused worry and fear. Early in Jehoshaphat's reign over Judah, the Moabites rebelled and gained independence from Israel. Soon after this they formed a coalition with the Ammonites and the Meunites to attack Judah. When they had crossed the Dead Sea and were making their way up by the pass of Ziz at Hazezon Tamar (En Gedi), Jehoshaphat's army prepared to meet them in battle. Before the battle could begin, however, the Lord caused the Moabites and Ammonites to turn and attack the Meunites, and the coalition was routed. A record of Jehoshaphat's decisive victory over the Moabites and Ammonites would be cause for celebration.

Battles in Jehoshaphat's life took the form of armies marching across the Palestinian wilderness, bloody conflicts in the valleys, hunting and hiding in the mountains. Our battles are of a different kind. Some of our battles are with addictions, some battles are with emotional challenges, and all of us battle with temptations of various kinds that come from Satan and the demonic world. Regardless of our battles, they all have eternal implications. Therefore, it's important to not grow weary during those battles.

In the passage you are about to read, you will see how God provided victory in Jehoshaphat's and Judah's battles and how He will provide us victory as long as we don't grow weary.

1. When do you feel weary?

Read 2 Chron. 20:1-30.

2. How did Jehoshaphat and his people respond to the news of the army's approach?
3. What elements of praise do you find in Jehoshaphat's prayer (2 Chron. 20:6-12)?
4. What reasons did Jehoshaphat give God for dealing with this problem (2 Chron. 20:7-10)?
5. Why did Jehoshaphat ask for God's judgment?
6. Imagine yourself standing in the crowd of people described in 2 Chron. 20:13. How would you have felt about Jahaziel's words in 2 Chron. 20:15-17? Why?

STUDY NOTES

To seek the Lord (20:3 – 4).

See 1 Chronicles 22:19.

“Seeking the Lord” was characteristic of Jehoshaphat at his best (see 2 Chronicles 17:4; 18:4; 19:3). The fast was an expression of the special intensity of the people’s prayer.

Wilderness of Tekoa (20:20 – 23).

The wilderness of Tekoa lies about 12 miles south of Jerusalem. Jehoshaphat’s call to faith is based on Isaiah 7:9. Belief here means the active and obedient trust that God rewards (see Hebrews 11:16), acting on the revealed word of his prophets, including Jahaziel.

Valley of Berakah (20:26).

“Berakah” means “blessing.”

There may be a recollection of this event in the prophecy in Joel 3:2, 12 (The Valley of Jehoshaphat). The return to Jerusalem takes the form of a triumphal procession, which ends appropriately in the temple, where the people had first sought God’s deliverance (2 Chronicles 20:5).

7. If you had been in the crowd that day, what would have likely gone through your mind when you heard God’s solution to the invasion? What risks might you have to take?
8. In what different ways did the people of Judah worship God (2 Chron. 20:18-30)?
9. What are some good ways to fix your eyes on the Lord rather than on yourself or on the battle?
10. What methods did God use to fulfill his prophecy of the previous day?
11. Why do you think God answered Jehoshaphat’s prayer in this way?
12. Notice the fear of God in surrounding kingdoms (2 Chron. 20:29). In what sense were they correct to say, “The LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel”?
13. Look again at the words in 2 Chron. 20:15-17: “For the battle is not yours. . . . You will not have to fight this battle.” When do you most need to hear this kind of message from God?
14. What can you learn from Jehoshaphat’s walk with God that will help you cope when you feel battle weary?