

Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, is with us

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgression,
and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

Salvation

Study Prayerfully & Study Carefully

Stand Ye Still & See

The Salvation of The LORD!

Reading:
2 Chronicles Chapter 20

1. Introduction

Life is very difficult for many people, including some believers. Nothing seems to go right. There is trouble on every side with, apparently, no help at hand. Every effort to put things right seems to end in failure. Troubles come in a variety of ways and in varying degrees: **persecution, poverty, ill-health, homelessness, loneliness, marital breakdown etc.** What are we to do in such circumstances? Who do we turn to? Neighbours, friends, relatives, church members, the government? As is often the case, none of these can meet our needs. They are all well meaning enough; but they cannot solve all of our problems all of the time. What then are we to do?

I trust that this Sabbath the story of **Jehoshaphat** king of Judah will present us all with some invaluable *lessons on available help*; lessons which every soul on earth should learn - and remember - especially in view of the approaching **Time of Trouble**.

The story is told in 2 Chronicles chapter 20.

2. The Approaching Enemy

The enemy is great and is approaching. Very often the enemy comes from a most unexpected source which catches a person completely off guard. This is the story of king Jehoshaphat; an obedient and faithful servant of **Jehovah** the Almighty God of Israel.

2 Chronicles 20: 1: "It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, **came against Jehoshaphat to battle**.
2: Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, **There cometh a great multitude against thee** from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi."

Jehoshaphat was terrified. He knew that his army could never meet this threat. What was he to do?

3. Spiritual Preparations

The first thing to do when facing an apparent impossible situation is to **pray**. If circumstances allow, gather some believers to join you in prayer and fasting. For further information see **Prayer**.

2 Chronicles 20: 3: **"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."**

4: **And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD:** even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5: **And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court."**

4. Eternal Realities

Certain facts do not - yea they cannot - change. It is important to know and remind ourselves of these facts.

2 Chronicles 20: 6: **"And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rules not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?"**

7: **Art not thou our God,** who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?"

5. An Agreement

Jehoshaphat reminded the LORD of the agreement He made when king Solomon dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem. The agreement was that God would answer His followers when they cried unto Him in prayer. That agreement still stands; even for us who lift up our hearts in prayer to the King in Jerusalem on high!

2 Chronicles 20: 8: **"And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, 9: If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgement, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help."**

10: **And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;**

11: **Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit."**

6. Total Helplessness

Total helplessness in any situation is never the end of the matter. Remember to keep your eyes on the Almighty. He is always able to deliver.

2 Chronicles 20: 12: **"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee."**

13: **And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children."**

7. Yahweh's Answer

Do not be afraid. Do not panic. The battle against sin, its originator and the myriad problems caused by sin, is not yours, but Yahweh's. Remember this fact.

Be Not Afraid / The Battle is Not Yours

2. Chronicles 20: 14: "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.**"

Stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you.

2. Chronicles 20: 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; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.**"

8. **Jehoshaphat's Response**

King Jehoshaphat's response of **faith in the LORD** in this virtually '**impossible**' situation is a perfect example to all in trouble. In front of the nation he displayed his belief and worshipped the Lord. He then set about carrying out a plan to witness a victory which ranks as one of the strangest in the annals of warfare.

Believe in the LORD Your God

2. Chronicles 20: 18: "And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, **worshipping the LORD.**
19: And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to **praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.**
20: And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; **Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.**"

9. **The Effect of Song & Praise**

Few believers appreciate the power of **song** and **praise** in the battle against evil. Would that everyone sang praises to Jehovah in times of trouble. A well chosen hymn or chorus of praise is a powerful weapon when fighting problems of every kind.

2. Chronicles 20: 21: "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed **singers** unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, **Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.**
22: **And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.**
23: For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, **every one helped to destroy another.**
24: And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped."

The Booty

2. Chronicles 20: 25: "And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, **more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.**"

Thanksgiving

2. Chronicles 20: 26: “*And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, **The valley of Berachah**, unto this day.*” (Valley of Blessing)

Joy

2. Chronicles 20: 27: “*Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.*
28: *And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.*”

The Fear of God fell on the Enemy

2. Chronicles 20: 29: “***And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.***”

Peace & Rest

2. Chronicles 20: 30: “*So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.*
31: *And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.*
32: *And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.*”

10. Summary

Most believers will, sooner or later, find themselves in troublesome circumstances such as: poverty, ill-health, loneliness, homelessness or persecution. Sooner or later one or more of these will come your way. That is the time to remember the following points:

- Seemingly impossible situations are **not** spiritual cul-de-sacs. There is always a way out.
We can safely say that '**With God, nothing is impossible!**' He often allows problems to come our way with the express purpose of learning this fact, that '**Nothing is impossible with God!**'
- **Yahweh Rules:** He is in charge in heaven above and on earth below. He has absolute power over the human race and every angel in the heavens. What's more, He is waiting and willing to help us - if we call upon Him in prayer.
- **Be not Afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of your God.**
Strictly speaking the spiritual battle between Satan and God is not of our making. It's not our battle. It's His; and if in faith we allow Him to take control, He will gladly do so - and win. But we must '**take our burdens to the LORD in prayer and leave them there.**'
- **Believe Him, Believe His Prophetic Word.** It's vitally important to believe the Almighty and to believe His real Word, the **Authorized King James Version.**
- **Prayer, Fasting and Songs of Praise are an invincible trio.** Use them to ensure victory.
- What's more, the **fear of God** will fall on all who oppose the true believer's work. The Almighty will '**prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies.**'
- **You will have Peace, Joy and Rest in your soul all your days.**
These are fruits of the Holy Spirit. They can be yours for the asking.
- To be sure we are not perfect. King Jehoshaphat wasn't perfect. He made some big mistakes. We all do; but that is not the total picture.

- **We can win every battle. We can overcome every problem.** How do I know this? Because **YAHWEH IS WITH US**, and the battle, fierce though it may become, is not ours, but His.

I'll end this sermon with a personal testimony. I trust that its message will become part of your life. That in every trouble, however great it may be, you will apply its message to yourself: because it really could be the experience of every true believer in the **LORD God of Israel**.

God is With Me

Let me tell you something of my Friend.

And as I **do** perhaps some of **you** will recognize the value of my **prize**.

For all my worldly **wealth**, my physical and mental **health**, in storm or weather **fair**,
depends upon His **care**.

I've learned each **day** to choose a **way** to lose my **fears**.

And though oft, troubles **press** with sore distress upon my soul,

I know somehow that **He is with me even now**; and will be through the passing **years**.

Yes - **He is with me**, even though in **thought** I've often **caught** myself so far away from Him.

And though I sometimes join the **race** away from His amazing **grace**,
I always turn around to see Him there behind my fleeing **foot**, to **put** His hand upon my **heart**
to draw me back to live with Him - **apart**.

He is with me, especially when my friends misunderstand the methods that I **use**.

Or when they **refuse** to see that He and I are friends; working silently to **make**, not **break**,
the strongholds of the Faith.

He is with me - not was - way back in the past,
or will be in some future **day**, still far **away**.

But **IS**: Yes **He is with me - even Now!**

This is without a **doubt** my greatest **joy**. It lets me **toy** with troubles, small and **great**.

So, what're my **fate**, I give my self to **song** for I **belong** to God.

And as I tread the trackless course of time, I have no fear somehow;
for I know the **Almighty GOD of Israel is with me, with me - even now!**

AMEN!

In the Son's Name - For the Father's glory.

Elder: *Max W. Mader*

A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada

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