



“Victory Through Prayer & Praise” (II Chronicles 19-20)

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Intro: II Chronicles 17-21 records for us the reign of Jehoshaphat. He made some foolish mistakes during his lifetime, first allying himself with wicked king Ahab. His son had married a daughter of Ahab (II Chron.21:6). As a result of, Jehoshaphat agrees to go to war against Ramoth Gilead (territory of the tribe of Gad), and it almost cost him his life (II Chron.18:28-34). Near the end of his reign, he made the same mistake by allying himself with wicked king Ahaziah, though his second mistake only cost him monetarily (II Chron.20:35-37). God sends men to rebuke him for these failures, and Jehoshaphat received their message. So he was a man who made some mistakes, but also a man willing to receive rebuke and correction. Today we will not focus on Jehoshaphat’s failures, because what he did right far outweighs his mistakes. Pick up the story up with me in II Chron.19:3-10. Now, it is very interesting what happens after Jehoshaphat turns the people back to the Lord.

I. THE ENEMY COMES AGAINST JEHOSHAPHAT AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TURNED THEIR HEARTS TO THE LORD (II Chron.20:1)

* Have you ever noticed that when people turn their hearts to the Lord, it gets the attention of the enemy?

* Some of us are going through some tough times, and those tough times may very well be an attack from the enemy.

II. JEHOSHAPHAT AND THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE (20:2-26)

A. They Come Together To Seek Help From The Lord (20:2-4)

* This is not typical of kings of Israel, nor of the people of Israel. Many times in their history they turned to everyone and everything but the Lord.

B. Jehoshaphat’s Prayer (vv.5-12)

1. They realized they had no power against the enemy.

- Num.14:36-45; Acts 19:13-16; II Tim.2:22-26

2. They did not know what to do.

- Ever been there?

3. They focused their attention on the Lord.

- It's easy to take your eyes off the Lord in moments of crisis; Mark 4:35-41; Peter walking on the water (Matt.14:30); Elisha's servant when the Arameans surrounded the house (II Kings 6:15-17; Ex.14:10-14)

- II Cor.4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

C. The Whole Congregation Stands Before The Lord (20:13)

D. A Spirit Filled Message From Jahaziel (20:14-17)

E. Everyone Bows In Worship (20:18)

* Jehoshaphat is leading them in this. It is essential that leaders lead us in worship! People need to be taught by the Word and by example.

F. Some Levites Stood & Praised The Lord (20:19)

* This is the biblical pattern. We humble ourselves before the Lord, then He fills our hearts with praise, even while the enemy is still breathing down our necks!

* This praise no doubt sparked praise throughout the congregation.

G. Victory Comes In The Midst Of Singing, Praise & Thanksgiving (20:20-22)

* Singing is ministry (See Ephesians 5:19; Col.3:16)

- to the Lord.

- to others in the congregation.

COMMUNION

* They prayed, humbled themselves, sang, praised and gave thanks, and God moved on their behalf. And guess what, He will do the same for us today...