

## 2 Chronicles 20

King James Version (KJV)

**20** 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. (other - here mentioned are the Edomites – see verse 10)

(Edom – descendants of Esau – Jacob's brother; Ammon and Moab – descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew; all Adamic peoples)

<sup>2</sup>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 in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. (Engedi was on their western border)

<sup>3</sup>And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. (Seek the Lord and He will be found of you. Forsake the Lord and He will forsake you. That was Asa's mistake at the end of his rule)

(This timeframe is in the last 2-3 years of Jehoshaphat's rule of Judah)

<sup>4</sup>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. (They are doing the right thing, by seeking the Lord)

2Chronicles-15:2 (Seek the Lord and He will be found of you. Forsake the Lord and He will forsake you)

<sup>5</sup>And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, (The restored court of the temple; it had suffered much damage from unrighteous kings)

<sup>6</sup>And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest 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? (Paraphrasing David in 1Chronicles-29:12)

<sup>7</sup>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? (Abraham was also called the friend of God in Isaiah-41:8 and James-2:23)

<sup>8</sup> And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

<sup>9</sup> If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, 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. (This is very close to the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple)

<sup>10</sup> 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; (mount Seir - these are the Edomites)

Deuteronomy-2:4, Numbers-20:21 -> when God told Israel not to fight these other descendants of Abraham and his nephew, Lot; <Moab, Ammon and Esau>)

<sup>11</sup> Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. (The Promised Land)

<sup>12</sup> 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. (The enemy were too numerous for them to prevail against, if it came to a war)

<sup>13</sup> And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (All people repented and asked God for His protection)

<sup>14</sup> 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; (Asaph was one of David's directors of the musicians. There is no word for grandson, great grandson, etc) (Jahaziel will prophecy God's Word to the people)

<sup>15</sup> 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. (God will fight this battle for Judah. They have nothing to worry about)

<sup>16</sup> To morrow 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. (God is telling them where to deploy their troops)

<sup>17</sup> 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. (dismayed = to break down because of fear, violence or confusion)

<sup>18</sup> 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. (They thanked God for saving them from their enemies. They knew that no army can stand against almighty God)

<sup>19</sup> 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. (Their faith in God saved them. They are thanking God for His mercy)

Numbers-16 (Korah led a rebellion against Moses. God destroyed him for it. These are some of his descendants, who sided with Moses against Korah)

<sup>20</sup> 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. (This is good advice, for then and also for today)

<sup>21</sup> 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. (The singers were in front of the army. Normally, this would be reckless. They had faith in God's salvation. God told them that He would fight this battle. They have nothing to worry about)

<sup>22</sup> 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. (In their confusion, they turned on each other. The ambushments may have been angels sent by God)

2Kings-6:17 (Elisha asked God to show his armor bearer the army of God. It is comprised of angels, without number)

<sup>23</sup> 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. (They destroyed each other in their confusion. This battle was God's, not Judah's)

<sup>24</sup> 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. (This also happened before when God turned the Medianites on each other. Gideon was the Judge at that time) See Judges-7:22

(These events are a preview to when God will fight the battles of Armageddon and Hamon-Gog. We won't fight those battles. God will destroy the enemy for us)

<sup>25</sup> 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. (The enemy had brought all of their possessions with them. They were planning on destroying Judah; and then moving in to inhabit their land)

<sup>26</sup> 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. (Berachah = blessing or prosperity)

<sup>27</sup> 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. (God gave them the victory)

<sup>28</sup> And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD. (Psalms-46, 47, 48 & maybe Psalm-83 were probably written during the time of Jehoshaphat)

<sup>29</sup> 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. (fear = dread or terror; this is a different word. It cannot be translated reverence)

<sup>30</sup> So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about. (No other nation dared come against Judah because they saw what God did to the Moabites, Edomites and Ammonites)

(31-37 – a Summary of Jehoshaphat's reign)

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> 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. (He was a loyal servant to God, his whole life. David was the only other king that remained loyal to God for his whole life. Some others <Joash, Solomon, etc> started out good; but then turned to evil at the end of their reign)

<sup>33</sup> Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers. (Not everyone was seeking the Lord like Jehoshaphat did)

<sup>34</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

<sup>35</sup> And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly: (He kept joining with the evil kings in Israel – this displeased God. Jehoshaphat was a good king but he was ignorant when it came to relations with the 10 northern tribes of Israel. They were total heathen, ruled by evil kings) 1Kings-22:51

<sup>36</sup> And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongaber. (The ships were called Tarshish; the place they went to was called Ophir)

<sup>37</sup> Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish. (Correction – to go to Ophir)

1Kings-22:49 (Even after God destroyed the ships, they re-built them.  
And again, Ahaziah asked to go with them to Ophir, but this time  
Jehoshaphat refused. Maybe he was starting to see the light)