

## God's Battle Strategy

February 9, 2020

### WE LIVE IN A CRUEL AND BLOODY BATTLEFIELD WHERE SIN IS CROUCHING AND SATAN IS PROWLING

2 Chronicles 20:1-2 ESV

1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.

2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

*Ephesians 6:12 ESV*

*12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

### THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE REACTION TO FEAR

2 Chronicles 20:3 ESV

3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

*"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."*

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 4, 1933*

*2 Timothy 1:7 ESV*

*ESV "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

*CSB "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."*

*NASB "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."*

*Psalm 56:2-4 ESV*

*2 my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.*

*3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*

*4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?*

### DON'T BECOME ISOLATED - ASSEMBLE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

2 Chronicles 20:4 ESV

4 And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

*Nehemiah 4:17,19,20 ESV*

*17 Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.*

19 And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another.

20 In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

## REMEMBER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

2 Chronicles 20:6 ESV

6 and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

17 Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Psalms 139:16 ESV

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

## REMEMBER AND RECOUNT GOD'S MIRACLES

2 Chronicles 20:7 ESV

7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

Psalms 40:9-10 ESV

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Psalms 71:15-18 ESV

15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Malachi 3:16 ESV

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

## REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

2 Chronicles 20:8-9 ESV

8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you--for your name is in this house--and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'

*Deuteronomy 31:6 ESV*

6 *Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*"

*Psalms 37:24 ESV*

24 *though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.*

*Psalms 37:25 ESV*

25 *I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.*

*Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV*

22 *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;*

23 *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

## REMEMBER GOD'S WORD AND PROMISES

2 Chronicles 20:10-11 ESV

10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy--

11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit.

## REMEMBER YOUR UTTER DEPENDENCE ON GOD

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

*John 15:5 ESV*

5 *...apart from me you can do nothing.*

*Jeremiah 9:23-24 NASB*

23 *Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;*

24 *but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.*

*Psalms 127:1 ESV*

1 *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*

*Jeremiah 17:5 ESV*

*5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD."*

*2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV*

*9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

## **DON'T RELY ON YOUR WISDOM OR PERSPECTIVE**

*2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV*

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

*Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV*

*5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*

## **FIX YOUR EYES - GUARD WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR**

*2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV*

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

*2 Corinthians 4:16,18 NASB*

*16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

*18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...*

*Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB*

*1 ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## **LISTEN FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY**

*2 Chronicles 20:13-14 ESV*

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

*James 1:5 NASB*

*5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

*Isaiah 30:21 NASB*

*21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.*

## **PRAYER IS WHERE THE WORK IS DONE AND THE BATTLE WON**

2 Chronicles 20:15 ESV

15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."

*James 5:16 ESV*

*16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

*James 5:16 NASB*

*16 The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

*James 5:16 RSV*

*16 The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.*

*James 5:16 AMP*

*16 The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].*

## **BE QUICK TO LISTEN FOR GODLY COUNSEL**

2 Chronicles 20:21 ESV

21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever."

*Acts 6:3 ESV*

*3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

## **PRAISE AND WORSHIP IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

2 Chronicles 20:22 ESV

22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.

*Acts 16:25-26 ESV*

*25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,*

*26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.*

## **NEVER FAIL TO RETURN THANKS AND GLORY TO GOD**

2 Chronicles 20:25-28 ESV

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much.

26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

28 They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

*Luke 17:17-18 NASB*

*17 Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine--where are they?"*

*18 "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"*

## **GOD WILL CAUSE YOUR ENEMIES TO FEAR HIM**

2 Chronicles 20:29-30 ESV

29 And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.