

## Introduction:

Throughout our life with the Lord, we will face various enemies who will try to invade us and remove us from our rightful place in His kingdom. Contrary to what some people think, warfare is not necessarily a consequence of having done something wrong. Although we can get ourselves into difficult spots due to our own foolishness, the simple fact is that we have enemies who will come against us no matter what we do or don't do.

Some Christians put their whole hope in avoiding war; the wise Christian learns valuable lessons about how to win wars. Jesus warned us to be ready to be outnumbered. The Old Testament provides us with critical understandings about the nature of spiritual warfare and the keys to victory against our spiritual adversaries.

## Jehoshaphat:

1. Jehoshaphat was a good king. He sought the Lord and followed His commands. He sent teachers into the cities to reintroduce the ways of the Lord to the people.
2. Though he made the mistake of aligning himself with King Ahab and Israel (culturally close but spiritually distant), he escaped disaster because he had previously set his heart to seek God.
3. Jehoshaphat recognized that his foolishness had affected his people, drawing them away from the Lord, so he again sent out teachers and counselors among all the people to render judgments and to explain the ways of God. Those judges were to act resolutely, faithfully and wholeheartedly. (See 2 Chron. 19:4-11).
4. Sometime later, an invading army, made up of Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites (from Mt. Seir), came against Judah at Engedi:
  - a. Jehoshaphat remembered how his father, Asa, had faced an army of 1,000,000 invaders and how his father had prayed to God:

"LORD, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O LORD, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chron. 14:11

- b. And Jehoshaphat also recalled how Asa had made a big mistake in choosing to form an alliance with godless Ben-hadad of Aram in order to defend himself against King Baasha:

"Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." 2 Chron. 16:7-9

5. Though the enemy facing Jehoshaphat was an actual, physical threat, he understood that the way to deal with it was to turn to the Lord. In a sense, the simple fact that the enemy was completely overwhelming convinced Jehoshaphat that his only hope was in God:

And Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD; and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD. 2 Chron. 20:3-4

6. Jehoshaphat prayed:

"O LORD, the God of our fathers, art Thou not God in the heavens? And art Thou not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Thy hand so that no one can stand against Thee. Didst Thou not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Thy people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Abraham Thy friend forever?

2 Chron. 20:6-7

"O our God, wilt Thou not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on Thee." And all Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives, and their children. 2 Chron. 20:12-13

### 2 Chronicles 20:14-30

- vs. 14-17 The people received a prophecy from the Lord: "Do not fear the multitude because the battle is not yours, it is the Lord's fight."
- vs. 18-19 The people worshipped the Lord for the word He spoke. They believed He was as good as His word.
- v. 20 Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God, and you will be established (built up, firmed, supported, made permanent). Put your trust in His prophets and succeed (break out, push forward, profit, get ahead)."
- vs. 21-22 Jehoshaphat sent the singers and the worshippers in front of the army, declaring that "The lovingkindness of the Lord is everlasting." As they sang, the Lord set ambushes against the enemy, and completely destroyed them in an unexpected manner.