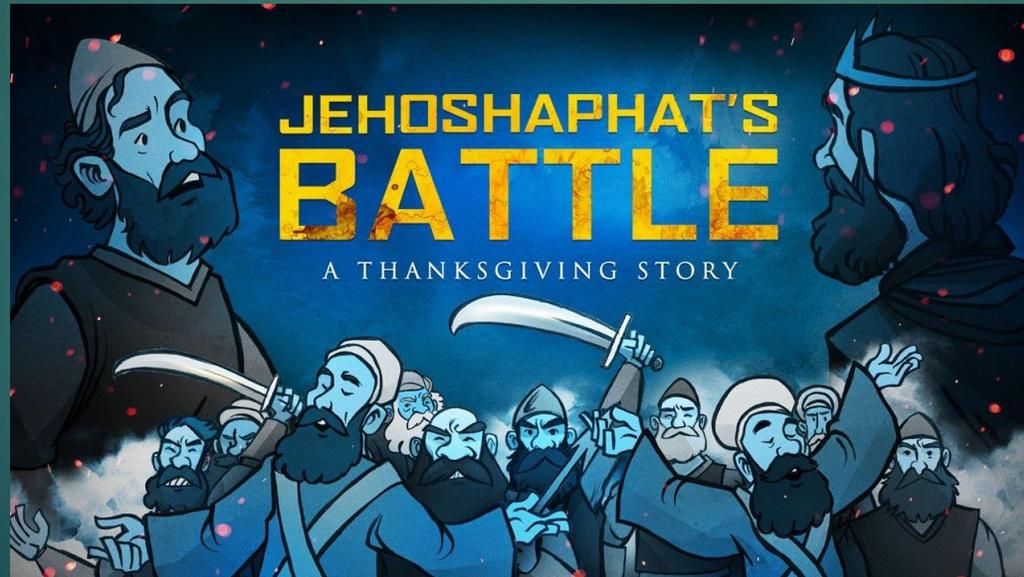


CONFIDENCE IN THE CRISIS

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-30



OUTLINE

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Principles from learning to trust God in desperate times

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Who is King Jehoshaphat?
 - a) 4th king of Judah, the son of Asa.
 - b) Began his reign at 35 years old (1 Kings 22:42) and reigned for 25 years.
 - c) Had a character flaw of making wrongful alliance with the wicked King Ahab, but he was a man who followed God & brought spiritual reform to the nation. (2 Chronicles 19:4-11)

A DESPERATE SITUATION

- ▶ *After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. (v.1-4)*

A DESPERATE SITUATION



PRINCIPLES FROM LEARNING TO TRUST GOD IN DESPERATE TIMES

- ▶ **Cultivating a trust in God before the desperate times come**
 - After **this**, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.
 - The word “this” involved 2 things:
 - a) Jehoshaphat learning a difficult lesson about the need to break his own alliances with ungodly kings. (2 Chronicles 18)
 - b) Jehoshaphat's actual spiritual reforms in Israel. (2 Chronicles 19:4-11)
 - Hence, Jehoshaphat was well along in getting his spiritual house in order when the crisis hit.

PRINCIPLES FROM LEARNING TO TRUST GOD IN DESPERATE TIMES

- ▶ **Set yourself to seek the Lord as soon as the desperate times hit**
 - Jehoshaphat began by remembering who God is. (v. 6)
 - Jehoshaphat recalls the promises God has made. (vv. 7-9)
 - Jehoshaphat sets himself to seek God by reviewing the situation before this great God. (vv. 10-11)
 - Jehoshaphat ends by requesting God to act on behalf of himself and his people. (v. 12)
 - Result: God clearly heard the prayer of His king. (vv. 14-19)

PRINCIPLES FROM LEARNING TO TRUST GOD IN DESPERATE TIMES

▶ Rejoice in God through worship during the desperate times

- Having relied on God for help, and having heard God's promise that the battle belongs to God, Jehoshaphat led the nation into worship. (vv. 18-21)
- Result: God caused the enemy armies to turn against each other, so that all Israel had to do was collect the spoil and celebrate the victory!

PRINCIPLES FROM LEARNING TO TRUST GOD IN DESPERATE TIMES

- ▶ **Bless God with your thanks when the desperate times are over**
 - The people not only worshipped God before the lines of battle, but they blessed Him in the valley once the battle was over.
 - The people had a victory parade in praise to the Lord, led by Jehoshaphat.

CONCLUSION

- ▶ We can be confident in a time of crisis if we let our great need drive us to prayer and faith in our great God.
- ▶ Principles from trusting God in difficult times:
 - Cultivating a trust in God before the desperate times come
 - Set yourself to seek the Lord as soon as the desperate times hit
 - Rejoice in God through worship during the desperate times
 - Bless God with your thanks when the desperate times are over

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

Say to those who are fearful hearted
Do not be afraid
The Lord your God will come and with His mighty arms
When you call on His Name
He will come and save

He will come and save you
He will come and save you
Say to the weary one
Your God will surely come
He will come and save you
He will come and save you
Lift up your eyes to Him
You will arise again
He will come and save you

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

Say to those who are broken hearted
Do not lose your faith
The Lord your God will come
And with His loving hand
When you call on His Name
He will come and save

He will come and save you
He will come and save you
Say to the weary one
Your God will surely come
He will come and save you
He will come and save you
Lift up your eyes to Him
You will arise again
He will come and save you

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

Bridge:

He is our refuge in the day of trouble

He is our shelter in the time of storm

He is our tower in the day of sorrow

Our fortress in the time of war