

WORSHIP WINS WAR



PRECEPT

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-20

¹ After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. ² 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). ³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard.

(Continue reading verses 6-20).

PROMISE

Most Christians think of worship as something we do as we come together on Sunday. We've learned that worship helps us endure trials and empowers us for witnessing. However, did you know that worship aids us in spiritual warfare as well? The worship and praise of our Almighty God gives us victory over the enemy. In the Old Testament, the people of God learned that worship and warfare went hand in hand. Over and over, we read of situations in which the people failed to worship God with their whole hearts. As a result, their enemies defeated them. However, when they repented and truly worshipped God, He always gave them victory. They could not win a war without sincere worship.

Paul and Silas won the victory by singing in the depth of the Philippian prison and were freed by an earthquake. Jonah worshipped God in the belly of the great fish and was spewed up onto the shore. Worship brings victory! Truly, worship and spiritual warfare go hand in hand.

Worship is a powerful weapon, one that can turn the battle in your favour. When King Jehoshaphat faced the combined might of three different armies, he knew he was no match for them. One morning, Jehoshaphat was shaken when his intelligence sources came running in with the horrifying news, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (2 Chronicles 20:1-2). This enemy coalition was about 15 miles south of Jerusalem, on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Jehoshaphat's life and his entire kingdom were on the brink of extinction! Talk about a reason to panic! So he turned to God, saying, "We have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You" (2 Chronicles 20:12). Here's how God answered him: "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (verse 15). Then God gave him an amazing strategy for victory. He told him to put a choir in front of his army and go into battle singing the praises of God. Jehoshaphat did it: "He appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army." And if that blows your mind, read this: "When they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated" (verse 22). Instead of attacking Judah, the three armies attacked one another. Israel never fired a shot, never took a casualty, and it took them three days to gather the spoils.

So when you're in a battle you can't win, begin to praise God and the forces of heaven will come to your aid. There will be periods in our lives when we are relatively at peace, but then a battle will start raging. King Jehoshaphat went to the Lord and said, "I don't know what to do. God, please help me!" That is the key, to take our situation to God and ask Him for advice on what to do. We should join King Jehoshaphat in rejecting all self-confidence and acknowledging, "O God, we're powerless and we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You!" Our great need should drive us to prayer and faith in our great God.

PRACTICE

1. Battles. What are the battles you are currently facing right now? How can the group pray for you?

2. Worship. What can we learn from the example of King Jehoshaphat? How can you worship God amidst the battles and war in your life?

PRAYER

I. Life Groups

- Pray that many more members will be involved and engaged in life groups.

II. Life Link

- Pray for this ministry to grow so that many more will be welcomed to our services.

III. Life Worship

- Pray for more volunteers to serve God and His people through music.

IV. Life Sports

- Pray that it will be an effective avenue to bring more people to Christ.

V. Life Kids

- Pray that God will send more workers to teach, guide, & influence our next generation.

VI. Worship Services

- Pray for Spirit-filled services in our church and more people to come to Christ.

VII. Leaders

- Pray for endurance, strength, and joy in serving and leading God's people.