



## God's Grand Story: Good Kings, Bad Kings, & King Jehoshaphat

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One of the good southern kings of Judah realized how far God's people had fallen and lead them back to God—that king was King Jehoshaphat.

Let's focus on the example of how King Jehoshaphat dealt with overwhelming odds stacked against him.

*Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-25 (NASB)*

When Jehoshaphat received word that three armies had conspired together and were coming against him in one massive assault, he made some decisive and unconventional decisions:

**1. He Turned to the LORD.** God was his first line of defense, not his last resort.

*2 Chronicles 20:3 — "Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord,"*

This was the decisive moment. It's not the crisis that destroys people; it's what we do or don't do when the crisis hits.

This takes faith and humility. Faith and humility is the place where we access God's supply and power.

**2. They Fasted.** There is supernatural power in fasting.

*2 Chronicles 20:3 — "Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."*

**3. He gathered other believers together to pray.** Jehoshaphat understood that the prayer of agreement is powerful.

*2 Chronicles 20:4 — "So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord;"*

**4. They kept their Eyes on the LORD.** They got their eyes off their problem and on to the LORD.

*2 Chronicles 20:12 — "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 You."*

This is a great prayer to pray. "We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

**5. They trusted God to fight for them.** They knew that God has never lost a battle.

*2 Chronicles 20:15 — "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"*

**6. They went forward with Praise, not fear or complaint.** Praise overpowers the enemy.

*2 Chronicles 20:21-22 — "When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed."*

This was a bold, audacious move. Either the singers will be killed in a great slaughter or God will come through. What Jehoshaphat does, seems like nonsense, but it makes perfect God-sense.

As the men of Judah came closer, the sound of singing confused the Moabites and Ammonites. Precisely what happened is unclear. The Bible simply says, "The Lord set ambushes against them." Perhaps he sent his angels to join the battle somehow. Perhaps he caused them to fall into their own traps and begin killing each other. The vast army was no more.

**They won a battle they never fought.**

The rest of the story goes like this:

1. It took them three days to carry off the plunder of the enemy—uniforms, equipment, and weapons.

2. On the fourth day they had a praise gathering in the Valley of Beracah—which means “Valley of Praise.”

3. When they got back to Jerusalem, they had another praise gathering at the temple—this time with an Old Testament combo—harps, lyres and trumpets.

4. When the other nations heard what had happened, they decided to leave the people of God alone. The end of the story is in verse 30: *“The kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.”*

But notice this: They worshiped God before the crisis, they worshiped during the crisis, they worshiped after the crisis. Worship was not an event they attended; worship was a way of life for the people of God. And God responded to their worship by giving them a fantastic victory.

Praise wasn't the prelude to the battle; praise was the battle.  
Worship wasn't the preparation for the strategy; worship was the strategy.

### **Worship releases God's power.**

Worship opens the door for God's delivering power to flow into our desperation. God is seeking men and women who will see their helplessness and worship Him anyway.

### **Summary of the message of this passage in four simple questions:**

1. Who do I trust? God.
2. How do I see myself? Powerless.
3. What do I do in a crisis? Worship.
4. What does God Do? Fights the battle for me.

### **If you are in trouble today, I have three pieces of advice:**

1. Admit your helpless condition.
2. Stop complaining and start praising.
3. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is our great hope against Satan. But how does the Holy Spirit fill and empower us? Ephesians 5:18–19 says, *“Be filled with the Holy Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to the Lord with all your heart.”*

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is experienced as a heart filled with singing. So if we fight Satan by the fullness of the Spirit, we fight him with praise songs.

It is no wonder that Satan hates the worship songs of God's people. He does his best to keep a church from being a worshipping church. And he does his best to keep you from being a worshipping person.

The enemies of God are thrown into confusion by the worship of God's people. So, when you are facing an overwhelming problem...

Turn to the LORD.

- 1. Fast**
- 2. Gathered other Believers together to pray**
- 3. Keep your eyes on the Lord**
- 4. Trust God to fight for you**
- 5. Go forward with praise, not fear or complaint**