

## FOCUSING ON GOD IN TIMES OF CRISIS

### 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-30 (Vs 4)

#### Introduction

God is so good to have given us His Word! It is such a wonderful resource! He's given us so many examples from the history of Israel and many of the Old Testament characters that we could learn from if we just paid attention to them!

As we read the Old Testament, we see time after time that Israel and Judah would get away from God and a crisis situation would develop in their land because of their sin! We've looked at a great example of that from the first chapter of Isaiah in the past few weeks and saw how God called the nation and its leaders back to Himself! Oh how our nation needs to get back to God also!

As we read in other places of Scripture, such as our text this morning, we see a crisis situation develop that the LORD uses to grow His people and His leaders and teach them to lean upon the LORD! Oh how we need this as God's people today! We are His Church! He wants to grow us! He wants to develop us! He wants us to learn better how to lean upon Him!

#### Let's look at the Scripture:

##### I. WE SEE THE CRISIS GOD'S PEOPLE FACED! (Vs 1-2)

**Judah had a definite problem and this problem was bigger than they could handle themselves!**

One of Judah's worst enemies was on their doorstep! There was an overwhelming army from the wicked Moabites and wicked Ammonites and their wicked allies was about to invade Judah.

By the time King Jehoshaphat got the message, the invaders were only thirty miles from Jerusalem.

##### II. WE SEE THE ACTIONS GOD'S PEOPLE TOOK! (Vs 3-4)

What King Jehoshaphat and Judah could not afford to do is ignore the enemy in hopes that they would just go away! That wasn't going to happen!

We see here a two-fold fear expressed here. Fear of the enemy and the fear of the LORD!

##### A. Jehoshaphat Feared The Enemy!

The usage of the word "*feared*" here implies that he was

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*frightened of the enemy!* The people followed in the leadership of their leader, the king! The king knew that he and his people could not afford to take this enemy lightly!

To not *fear* the enemy would have been very foolish! But though the enemy was to be *feared*, that is not where their *focus* was supposed to be! Their *focus* was to be on fearing the LORD! Had they focused just on the *fear of the enemy* they would have been *paralyzed with that fear!*

In the same way folks, we have an enemy that we need to have a healthy dose of fear of! As your leader in this Church I caution you all the time about our enemy, the devil:

*1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

Just like Jehoshaphat and Judah in our text, we need to fear the enemy, but we must stay focused on the LORD! And as we focus on fearing the LORD, we will not be paralyzed by our fear of the enemy!

##### B. Jehoshaphat Feared The LORD!

*Fear* in this respect means that he had *reverence for the LORD!* Jehoshaphat knew the enemy was great! But He also knew that the LORD was greater! And he knew that he and his people needed the LORD to see them through this crisis!

As I said, had he focused on the enemy he would have been paralyzed with the fear of the enemy and ultimately defeated! That's the same thing our enemy, the devil, would have us to do—**He wants us to get our focus off of our LORD and get them on to our circumstances!**

Understand that the enemies that we face in the times we live in ARE greater than us! But, they ARE NOT greater than our

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LORD!

1. **Jehoshaphat Set Himself To *Seek* The LORD!**  
“*Seek*” = translated from a Hebrew word meaning “*to seek with care or inquire.*” It is *to follow after the LORD in worship while seeking His guidance or asking for His assistance.*

The prophet Isaiah said in *Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

Listen to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:  
*Matthew 7:7-8 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

What is it that we want the LORD to do for us in our times crisis? Have we set ourselves to seek Him as we should?

2. **Jehoshaphat Proclaimed A *Fast* Throughout All Judah!**
  - a. **Fasting Is The Denying Of Oneself Of Food And Pleasure!**
  - b. **Fasting Allowed One To Focus On The LORD!**
  - c. **Fasting Is An Act Of Humility!**
  - d. **Fasting Shows That One Is Serious About Seeking the LORD!**

C. **Judah Gathered Themselves Together!**

1. **To Ask Help Of The LORD!**

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2. **To Seek The LORD!**  
(i.e. They followed the godly leadership of their leader!)

III. **WE SEE THE PRAYER THAT WAS OFFERED! (Vs 5-13)**

A. **A Proper Acknowledgment Of God’s Person! (Vs 5-6)**

B. **A Proper Acknowledgment Of God’s Actions! (Vs 7)**

C. **A Proper Acknowledgment Of God’s Ways! (Vs 8-9)**

D. **A Proper Asking For God’s Intervention! (Vs 10-13)**

IV. **WE SEE THE WORD FROM THE LORD! (Vs 14-17)**

V. **WE SEE THE WORD WAS MET WITH WORSHIP! (Vs 18-19)**

VI. **WE SEE THE WORD WAS MET WITH FAITH AND COURAGE! (Vs 20-22)**

*Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

VII. **WE SEE THEIR FAITH REWARDED!**

A. **The Enemy Was Defeated! (Vs 22-24)**

B. **The Enemy Was Spoiled! (Vs 25)**

VIII. **WE SEE THEIR PRAISE IN THE VALLEY OF BLESSING! (Vs 26-27)**

IX. **WE SEE THEM REJOICING IN THEIR RETURN! (Vs 28-30)**

### Conclusion

Just as Judah had a problem, we as the people of God have a problem. There is an enemy that seeks to destroy our nation as we know it!

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The enemy is bigger than us, but not bigger than our God!

It's past time for action! So what will we do? We fear the enemy, but listen, we **need to focus more on our fear of God!**

We need to **set ourselves to seek the LORD** and ask for His help for some Divine intervention! (Some fasting and a whole lot of praying couldn't hurt!)

We need to **worship the LORD** and **acknowledge the LORD's Person, His Actions, and His Ways**, and **seek His intervention and mercy on our behalf!** We would be wise to **take God at His Word** and **to claim His Word** and **meet His Word with Worship** and **Faith** and **Courage** so that we might see **our faith rewarded!**

And when the LORD rewards our Faith with His victory don't forget to **Praise Him** and **Rejoice in Him!**

This can work for a nation...it can work for a Church...and it can work for an individual!