

O GIVE THANKS

by: Carolann Rosenthal

2Chron.20 (with reference to 18-19) If possible read all three chapters

2 Chronicles 18-19 tell us about a good king of Judah named Jehoshaphat who had become very powerful because he had obeyed the Lord. Then he did something that was not right. He allied himself with King Ahab (an evil king who was not following the Lord). When Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to join him in battle against Ramoth Gilead, he said yes. 400 false prophets came and told them to go to war and they would win. One true prophet of God told them that Ahab would be killed in battle. They went into battle and Ahab had Jehoshaphat wear the royal robes while he went in disguise. The goal of the enemy was to kill the king and Jehoshaphat {wearing the king's clothes} almost got killed, but God spared him. The evil king Ahab was killed just like God said he would be. In Chapter 19, Jehoshaphat was scolded for his actions for joining forces with an evil king. Then he did many good things to help the people under him seek the Lord

2 Chron.20:1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat... 3-4 Then Jehoshaphat feared and set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord; he proclaimed a fast in all Judah. And Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord [yearning for Him with all their desire]



He prayed an earnest prayer that is so helpful to us. "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you..." [He acknowledged who God is] Then he reminded God of his promises. [God had already promised them the land they were living in] God didn't need to be reminded but Jehoshaphat did! He told God his problems [even though God already knew them]

Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's...You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you. 2Chron. 20: 15b, 17

Then he acknowledged their need for God, saying... For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do but our eyes are upon you.' As they were praying The Spirit of the Lord came upon a man named Jahaziel. He said "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you" "They worshiped the Lord. Then Jehoshaphat did something very unusual. He appointed men to sing to the Lord and praise him for the splendor of his holiness. They went out at the head of the army saying, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever." They were about to witness a miracle. As the worshipers began to sing and praise; their enemies went against each other and were destroyed.

There are some very good lessons I have learned from this story:

1. Revere (From Ch. 18) When things are going well, remember who gets the glory
2. Recognize my enemy and his schemes and don't ally with him. The Bible says our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the forces of evil. Our enemy is the devil, the father of lies, the accuser of our brothers. Our weapons are not like the worlds weapons 2Cor.10:3-5 Put on the armor of God Eph.6:13-18
3. Remember Who God is- Sovereign, in control, all wise, all knowing.... Worship Him
4. Remind myself of His promises – We walk by faith not by sight
5. Rely on God 2Chron 20:15b,17
6. Rejoice in the Lord -Phil 4:4-7 O Give thanks to the Lord...