

# The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #29b | "The battle is not yours, but God's"  
Jehoshaphat & The Singing Battle  
Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

## 2 Chronicles 20:1-4

**1** It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

**2** Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.

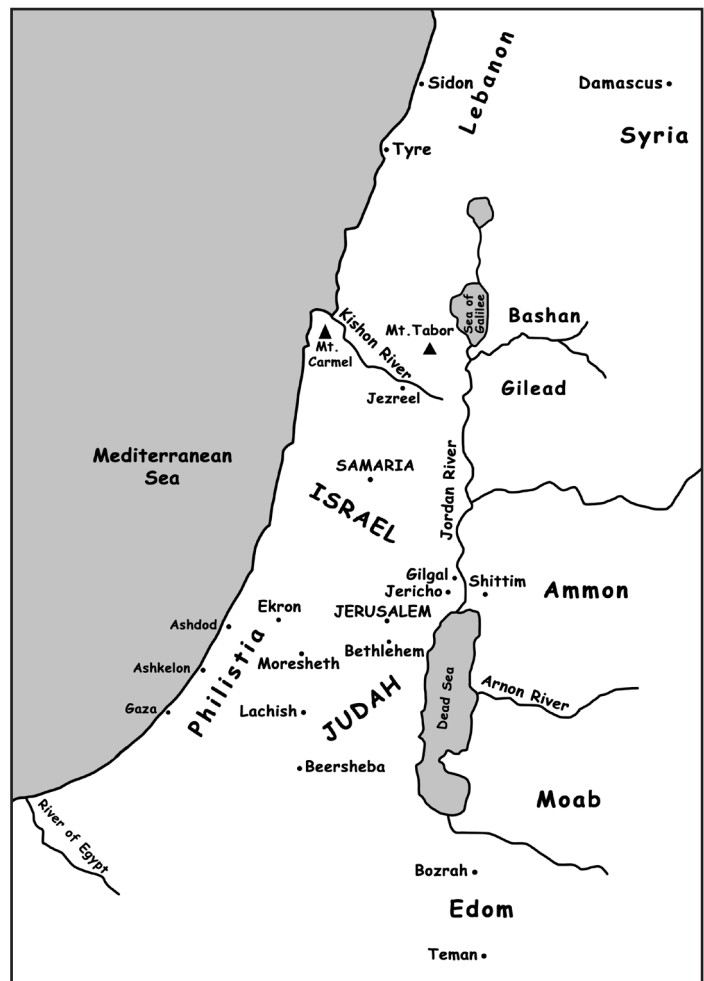
**3** And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

**4** And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

1. Which sea is referred to in 2 Chronicles 20:2, "There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria"?

- ☐ Sea of Galilee
- ☐ Dead Sea
- ☐ Mediterranean Sea

2. In the map, mark out the location of Hazazontamar, more commonly known as Engedi, with a black dot, (•) Then, mark out the "wilderness of Judea" with a series of '^' (^^^^^^^^^^^^).



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3. What was Jehoshaphat's response when he realised that the enemy had encamped very near to Jerusalem? (Tick all the correct options)

- ☐ He feared and set himself to seek the LORD
- ☐ He fasted and prayed
- ☐ He sought the help of Israel to fight against Moab and Ammon
- ☐ He gathered everyone in Judah to fast and pray
- ☐ He fought them immediately!

4. In the following passage, 2 Chronicles 20:5-13, Jehoshaphat offers a impassioned prayer. Out of desperation for help, Jehoshaphat expresses his trust in God by declaring the greatness of God. Jehoshaphat expresses these statements in a unique way — he asks rhetorically with "not", expecting the answer 'yes'. There are five of such rhetorical statements. Highlight them in the passage below.

## **2 Chronicles 20:5-13**

**5** And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

**6** And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

**7** Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

**8** And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

**9** If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

**10** And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

**11** Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

**12** O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

**13** And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

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5. What is another name for the inhabitants of Mount Seir?

- ☐ Edomites
- ☐ Elamites
- ☐ Seirites

## **2 Chronicles 20:12-13**

**12** O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

**13** And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

6. Underline the phrases in the passage above (2 Chronicles 20:12-13) which tell us that Judah was helpless against her enemies.

Circle the phrase in the passage above (2 Chronicles 20:12-13) which describes Judah's trust in the LORD.

7. After reading the above passages, what would you describe the extent of the 'fast and pray' session in Judah?

- ☐ Personal 'fast and pray' session
- ☐ Family 'fast and pray' session
- ☐ National 'fast and pray' session
- ☐ International 'fast and pray' session

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## **2 Chronicles 20:14-19**

**14** Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

**15** And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

**16** To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

**17** Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

**18** And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

**19** And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

8. Fill in the blanks below with the appropriate words.

The Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel, and he spoke boldly to the k \_ \_ \_ and all the people. The name, "Jahaziel", means God s \_ \_ \_ , or God beholds. Indeed, when the people fixed their eyes upon God for help, the God who sees and knows all was quick to attend to their needs.

Jahaziel said to them, "be not afraid, nor be d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_". This assuring message was repeated t \_ \_ \_ \_ . The omniscient God knew the exact locations which the enemies would be at the next day. The \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of Ziz and the wilderness of Jeruel were specific locations in the wilderness of Judea. Jehoshaphat and the rest of Judah need not worry about the battle. The battle belongs to God who sees and knows all things!

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In addition, God comforted them by saying, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle". This comfort did not mean that they could relax. It still required them to act, but no longer out of f \_\_\_!

God said, "set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the s \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be \_\_\_\_\_ you".

Moved with comfort, awe and gratitude, Jehoshaphat and the people fell on the ground and bowed down before God, worshipping him. While they were prone on the ground, the choir "s \_\_\_\_\_ up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a l \_\_\_\_\_ voice on high." This choir comprised the descendents of the sons of Korah.

During king David's time, e \_\_\_\_\_ psalms were directed to the sons of Korah to sing: Psalms 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, 87, 88.

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## **2 Chronicles 20:20-21**

**20** And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

**21** And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

The next day, the soldiers rose up early and went to Tekoa. Perhaps, after a night of sleep, some woke up with fear in their hearts again. Others might have forgotten the encouragement delivered to them. Jehoshaphat recognised the rising fear in the camp and urged all, "B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in the LORD your God, so shall ye be e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_". He then appointed the singers to go ahead of the army and sing praises to God! The choir led the army! What a melodious march! The singers and with a loud voice, sang,

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When the soldiers heard the singers, they must have been stirred and encouraged in their hearts. There might have been a beat to the tune which was synchronised with the marching steps of the soldiers. It could have been possible that some soldiers joined in to sing together with the singers! In armed services today, we call such marching songs, "military cadence". 2 Chronicles 20:21 records the Israelite military cadence which extolled the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of God's h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ - none compares to the God of Israel!

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## **2 Chronicles 20:22-25**

**22** And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

**23** For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

**24** And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

**25** And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

The LORD caused a great confusion and carnage in the enemy's line. They were all gathered in Judah, in the wilderness of Jeruel, getting ready to battle against Judah. In this enemy group were three groups of people: the children of A\_\_\_\_ and M\_\_\_\_, and the inhabitants of Mt Seir (E\_\_\_\_)

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9. Scripture used the word, "ambushments" to describe the nature of the confusion. This word which means to surround and trap others. The hebrew word for "ambushments" is, in many occasions, translated as "lying in wait" for someone else, to do harm to them. Arrange the following events according to what happened in the wilderness of Jeruel. Put the numbers 1 to 3 in the boxes below. The fourth event has been filled in.

(1 to 4)	Events
	After all the Edomites were killed, the Ammonites thought the Moabites were Jews, and likewise the Moabites thought the Ammonites were Jews, and both groups started to attack and kill each other.
	The children of Judah stood at a higher ground, and from a watch tower, they saw the great carnage: they had ambushed themselves in and slew each other, leaving dead bodies everywhere!
	The children of Ammon and Moab mistook the Edomites for Jews. They lied in wait for the Jews, but thinking that the Edomites were their enemies, they killed all the Edomites
4	Jehoshaphat, with his people, moved through the dead bodies and gathered the spoil. There was plenty to collect, so much so that they needed three days to collect all the jewels and riches from the enemies!



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## **2 Chronicles 20:26-30**

**26** And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

**27** Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

**28** And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

**29** And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

**30** So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

10. After the carnage came great c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ! They gathered together in a valley and praised the Lord. Because of the great joy and blessing, the valley was called the place 'where they blessed the LORD', or "Berachah" in Hebrew. Berachah means the place of b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . Indeed, what great blessing which Judah received. The Lord had fought the battle for them! They thought they were going to die in the hands of their enemies, but the Lord gave them a great blessing of deliverance, for the mercies of God endureth forever!

In the march out of Jerusalem, the choir led the troops to battle. In the march back into Jerusalem, king Jehoshaphat led all the people back, and this time, everyone was singing and rejoicing! They went into the Jerusalem with and there was a celebrative concert! Instruments such as harps, psalteries and trumpets were used in their singing and praising the LORD.

When the surrounding nations heard of this incident, they f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the God of Israel because God had fought for them! Our God is able to do mighty works, and many who see God's works will also fear the LORD. Let us believe (trust) in His greatness and be established to do well, for He will fight for us!