

Bible People: Jehoshaphat – Hannah Gooding – 2 Chronicles 20:1-30– 01/07/18

Introduction

Jehoshaphat was the King of Judah, about 100 years after King Solomon. Generally a good man and leader, *“The Lord was with Jehoshaphat.” (2 Chronicles 17:3)*

Three armies were coming to attack Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. Jehoshaphat first seeks God and prays.

- He doesn't just pray, 'help, help' but instead prays about God's goodness and promises (v5-12)
- Then all the people bow down and worship God (v18-19)

1. The people fought with worship (v21-23)

Worship is the act of glorifying God – putting our desires aside and lifting God up.

- Here, they specifically sung worship to God and God defeats their enemies.

Spiritual worship and spiritual warfare should be carried out with singing!

- *“God has appointed the use of spiritual songs as an effective weapon against...Satan.” (John Piper)*
- Elsewhere in the Bible we see the same thing:
 - *“About midnight Paul & Silas were praying & singing hymns to God & the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open & everyone's chains came loose.” (Acts 16:25-26).*
- Paul and Silas worshiped God and God displayed His power.

Q. Are you worshipping to take ground for the Kingdom? Or just to get a nice feeling? Or because it's what we do?

There is power when we worship. The Holy Spirit moves in us through worship. We are advancing the Kingdom.

“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.” (Ephesians 5:18–19)

- The fullness of the Holy Spirit is experienced as a heart filled with singing. So if we fight our battles in the fullness of the Spirit, we fight with him in song.

2. Worship takes our focus off ourselves (v15)

Worship and prayer are great tools that God has given us.

- When we pray, we generally are asking God to help in our situation
- When we worship, we're laying our battles and problems at God's feet and worshipping Him.

Then God moves powerfully and it does something to our hearts – re-aligns our vision and thinking.

- *“Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.” (v15)*
- It was God's battle. The army didn't even see the battle happening! They arrived after it had finished!

Q. How often do your actions demonstrate that you trust God more than yourself? Are there any battles you're trying to 'fix' yourself?

By worshipping God and laying down our battles before Him, we're saying that we trust God more than ourselves.

3. It was a corporate battle (v4, 13, 18)

“The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.” (v4)

“All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.” (v13)

“...all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.” (v18)

This was a corporate battle, and they worshipped together.