

Jehoshaphat's prayer

Opening

- Labor Day weekend
- Anniversary of the church (57 years?)
- Let's give thanks to the Lord!

Message

Introduction

- Share a passage from Jehoshaphat's life
- Time when he encountered difficulty - felt afraid and overwhelmed
- Ties in perfectly with the promise we had!
- Take a bible, and let's follow along through this chapter

The situation (1-4)

2 Chron 20:1-4 (ESV) *(1) After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. (2) Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). (3) Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. (4) And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.*

- After this
 - Jehoshaphat had just completed reforming the people - reviving them
 - He brought people back to the Lord (19:4)

- He established judges - admonishing them to rule and judge in the fear of the Lord
- He restored the levitical priesthood
- **Point:** In spite of that he found himself surrounded!
- Bad news
 - The enemies allied and gathered against him
 - Someone reports it to him
 - **Note:** Always someone ready to spread a discouraging word!
 - **Thought** so important we spread the testimony of Jesus!
- Response
 - At first afraid
 - But then resolved to seek the Lord
 - called the people together to seek Him!
 - And they responded!

The basis of his prayer (5-9)

2 Chron 20:5-9 (ESV) (5) *And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, (6) and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. (7) Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? (8) And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, (9) 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you--for your name is in this house--and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'"*

- Place of the prayer
 - It was there Solomon prayed and God answered
 - He reiterates through what God has said and promised (2 Chron 7)
 - **2 Chron 7:15 (ESV)** (15) *Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.*
 - This is the place I've chosen to put my name
 - If my people (which Jehoshaphat as been doing)
 - See **9** *If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or*

famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'

- We are His temple - he chosen to live with us, to dwell with us!
- The authority of God!
 - God rules over everything
 - See v5b-6 - none can withstand *O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.*
- The past victory of God
 - You drove out the enemies before us!
- **Point:** He prayed on the basis of God's promises, and God's past deliverance!

His appeal

2 Chron 20:10-12 (ESV) *(10) And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy-- (11) behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. (12) O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*

- He calls out to the Lord: they're here
 - These enemies are here
 - We weren't allowed to destroy the edomites as we passed through
 - But now they're coming to destroy us
 - **Point:** They had no claim to this land.
 - See previous section **2 Chron 20:7 (ESV)** *(7) Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?*
 - This was their inheritance by a covenant with Abraham!
- Act and bring judgment
 - God is a just God
 - He will right the wrongs
- We don't know what to do - our eyes are on you
 - He started off afraid

- But now he has chosen to seek the Lord
- Its ok to be afraid
- It's ok not to know how to proceed
- The trick is to focus on Jesus

The Spirit's ministry

2 Chron 20:13-17 (ESV) *(13) Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (14) And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. (15) And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. (16) Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."*

- Everyone was together, waiting on the Lord!
 - That's what we need - to set our hearts on seeking the Lord
 - To wait for His response
 - To act accordingly
- Jahaziel's prophecy
 - The Spirit had a message to communicate
 - If we seek Him we will find Him/ask receive, seek find
 - But God speaks through people
 - Someone had to be willing to be used
 - Prepare ourselves for the Spirit's use
 - See how much the Word was needed
 - But it was spoken through a person
- The Word of the Lord
 - *Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and*

see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

- Specific
- Needed faith
- Go out and stand there - let God be God!

The praise (part 1)

2 Chron 20:18-21 (ESV) *(18) Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. (19) And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. (20) And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." (21) And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever."*

- They bowed in worship
 - The Spirit spoke
 - They were humbled - because had come
- They obeyed in worship
 - The next morning they set out
 - Jehoshaphat strengthened them in the Word they'd received.
- They praised because...
 - *"Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever."*
 - They're standing here - in full view of the enemy - praising
 - Note we can praise today - because His love endures forever

The victory

2 Chron 20:22-25 (ESV) (22) *And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. (23) For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another. (24) When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. (25) When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much.*

- God did the work
 - They only needed to stand still
 - God routed them
- When they began to praise
 - The praised before the battle!
 - So important!
- There was 3 days worth of spoil!

The praise (part 2)

2 Chron 20:26-30 (ESV) (26) *On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. (27) Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. (28) They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. (29) And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. (30) So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.*

- They returned to praise after
- God had shown up strong on their behalf
- They didn't fail to praise him

Closing

- Even though you're doing good - the enemy can come and threaten
- When he does we need to seek the Lord
- Remember Gods' promises and His past deliverance
- What is our because of His covenant with Jesus?
- We need the ministry of the Spirit - now and whenever we come together!