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- We are going to look at God doing something special in an impossible situation.
- We are going to see God's servant, Jehoshaphat, lead his people in prayer.
- And, we are going to see God being Who He Is, FAITHFUL AND TRUE!!
- Open your Bibles to 2 Chron.20:1-30

- In verses 1-2, King Jehoshaphat (the Lord is Judge) and the Israelites were about to be destroyed by three different armies.
- After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.
- Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi).

- In verse 3, we see that Jehoshaphat was "ALARMED".
- But it continues, and says that,

Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

• In verse 4, we see that, "The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord" and that "they came from every town in Judah to seek him."

The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

• In verse 5, we see that Jehoshaphat "stood up in the assembly". There was no shame to stand up before God in front of the people.

Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard

- In verses 6-12, Jehosphaphat shows us a wonderful example of praying when in distress (either publicly or privately).
- He said THREE important things in verses 6, 7, and 12:

- and said: "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.
- O our God, <u>did you not</u> drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

• They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 9 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

• "But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12 O our God, will you not judge them? 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."

• First in verse 6, he said "Are YOU not". He remembered who his God was in the PRESENT.

Hab. 1:12 "O LORD, are you not from everlasting?" Matthew 6:26 "Are you not much more valuable than they?"

- They acknowledged WHO GOD WAS TO THEM!!
- We are to acknowledge in prayer, Who God is to us!!

- Then in verse 7, he said, "Did YOU not".
- He knew his God had been faithful in the PAST.
- We are to acknowledge what God has done for us in the past.
- God has been faithful!!

- Finally, in verse 12, "Will YOU not".
- He knew that this same God who had looked after him and his people in the <u>PAST</u> and <u>PRESENT</u> would look after them in the <u>FUTURE</u>.
- We can know that our God will look after us in the Future!!
- Psalm 85:6 "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"

- In verse 12, Jehoshaphat recognized and becomes honest with the reality of the problem.
- It is the wise child of God that recognizes his powerlessness and God's power.
- O our God, will you not judge them? 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."

- These are powerfully wise words for every child of God.
- Did not Jesus "commit His spirit to the Father" and totally trust God.
- Did not Jesus say, "Forgive them Father for they don't know what they are doing."
- It is a wise person who recognizes that his own wisdom is nothing and that it is best to come to Jesus "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3)

- In verse 13, we see all the families standing before the Lord.
- All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.
- What a beautiful sight to see "families" standing before the Lord.
- A picture of families trusting Him for all their needs.

- It reminds us of how at the Passover the families waited behind the door as the Angel of Death went through Egypt and killed the firstborn.
- I'm sure many of these families pictured that it was now their turn to "wait on God".
- Let's also, stand before God, remembering His faithfulness when our families are in need.

- In verses 14-17, the Holy Spirit comes and the Word of God is spoken.
- Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel (seeing God), the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

• He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel (fear; vision of God). 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

• It's always wise to seek God's Spirit and Word when we're in distress.

We need to hear God's direction from His Word.

- Verses 18-19, show the king bowing in humility & the people worshipping.
- Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD. Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.
- God's Word always causes us to humble ourselves and worship God.
- It gives us a proper perspective & direction.

- Finally, in verses 20-30, we see that the people were obedient to God's word.
- Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa (trumpet; that is confirmed). As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

• As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

• When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah (blessing; bending the knee), where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

- Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.
- The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side. (2 Chron. 20:1-30)

- Obedience is better than sacrifice.
- We are to step out in wisdom and trust God to see the giants fall (1 Sam.17).
- Do not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, OPEN YOUR EYES and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)
- The enemy and the job before hand can look insurmountable.
- But, we don't have big problems...we have a BIG God!!!

• LET'S PRAY: