



Week 3: 2 Chronicles 20:1-23

### **RETURN TO RELIANCE**

Facing a formidable alliance of Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites, the southern kingdom of Judah finds itself on the brink of total disaster. King Jehoshaphat, sees these incredible odds and calls his people to turn to the Lord in prayer and fasting, knowing full well that his little nation is powerless against this invading horde. Speaking through Jahaziel, his prophet, the Lord assures Judah that the battle belongs to God and tells them to stand firm and watch what he will do.

### **THE SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-23**

<sup>1</sup> After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. <sup>2</sup> 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). <sup>3</sup> Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. <sup>4</sup> And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. <sup>5</sup> And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, <sup>9</sup> '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.' <sup>10</sup> 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—

<sup>11</sup> behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. <sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.

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## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever encountered a situation that totally overwhelmed your resources? How did you respond?
2. What are some other ways of responding to the overwhelming things in our lives?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. What threat came against Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah? What made the danger so serious?
4. What was King Jehoshaphat's immediate response?
5. Do you think it was okay for Jehoshaphat to be afraid? Why or why not?
6. What promise did Jehoshaphat refer to in verses 5-9? Refer to 2 Chronicles 6-7 for background if necessary.
7. What does it mean to 'seek the LORD'? What does a person do to get from the fear stage to the 'seek the Lord' stage? What actual steps are taken?
8. What was so great about Jehoshaphat's response to the people he served? How did the people respond to him?
9. What is the first thing God spoke to Jehoshaphat about in verses 14-15? How did this help him?

10. What was the primary way in which God communicated to Jehoshaphat? Are there any other ways that God uses to communicate in this passage? How does God speak to his people today?
  
11. Do you regularly seek God in His Word? What is holding you back?
  
12. What might be the reasons behind our culture's disdain for the term "dependence"? How is this different from a dependence upon the Lord?
  
13. Why do you think the Lord loves our dependence upon him?