

¹After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. ²Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). ³Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



⁴The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. ⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard ⁶and said: “Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven?

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations.
Power and might are in your hand, and no one
can withstand you. 7Our God, did you not drive
out the inhabitants of this land before your
people Israel and give it forever to the
descendants of Abraham your friend?
2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



⁸They 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.’

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



¹⁰“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. ¹¹See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



¹²Our 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 on you.” ¹³All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



¹⁴Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. ¹⁵He 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.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



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. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.’”¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.¹⁹ Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



²⁰Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. 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.”

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



²¹After 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.”

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



²²As 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. ²³The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴When 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.

2 Chronicles 20:1-24 (NIV)



³Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

⁴The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

2 Chronicles 20:3-4 (NIV)

³...Jehoshaphat was afraid and ***set his face to seek the Lord...***

2 Chronicles 20:3 (ESV)



Breakthrough comes when we have a deep conviction that we are utterly helpless without the Lord.



“Until there is a conviction of need, there can never be a desire for a change.”

—Rees Howell



¹²...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 on you.
2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV)



THE DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE



Depend on God's Sovereignty

⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard ⁶and said: “***Lord, the God of our ancestors, 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.***”

2 Chronicles 20:5-6 (NIV)



Depend on God's Sovereignty

Definition of Sovereignty: to have supreme power and authority



Depend on God's Sovereignty

“God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free. The reasons are these: Were there even one [data] of knowledge, however small, un-known to God, His rule would break down at that point. To be Lord over all the creation, He must possess all knowledge...



Depend on God's Sovereignty

...And were God lacking one infinitesimal [fragment] of power, that lack would end His reign and undo His kingdom; that one stray atom of power would belong to someone else and God would be a limited ruler and hence not sovereign.”

—A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*



Depend on God's Sovereignty

“...my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.”

—George Mueller

Depend on God's Friendship

⁷Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and ***give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?***

2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV)

Depend on God's Friendship

¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15:15 (NIV)



Praise is the Exercise of Our Dependence



Praise is the Exercise of Our Dependence

²¹After 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.” ²²As 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.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 (NIV)

