

## Chapter 31 OUR EYES ARE UPON YOU

2 Chronicles 17:1-10

“...nor do we know what to do, but our eyes  
are upon You” (2 Chronicles 20:12)

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2 Chronicles 17:1-10 speaks to us of Jehoshaphat the King of Judah. We are told that “*God was with Jehoshaphat*” because he was not into idolatry but sought the God of his fathers, and that “*therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand*”. (v.5)

Jehoshaphat sent leaders to teach the Scriptures throughout the cities of Judah.

But, then, in 2 Chronicles 18.1, we read,

“*Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.*” (Ahab was the ungodly king of Israel)

In brief, as recorded in chapter 18, Ahab requested Jehoshaphat to join him in attacking Ramoth Gilead, and Jehoshaphat agreed to join him. The false prophets of Ahab prophesied they would have success in their attack, but the true prophet of God, Micaiah, strongly prophesied disaster, even the death of Ahab, and, for speaking so, Micaiah was thrown into prison. The two kings then went together to the attack and Ahab, king of Israel was killed, as rightly prophesied.

As we consider these events we realise that if Jehoshaphath had heeded the true prophet, he would have declined to be part of this attack. Instead, on this occasion, he disobeyed God and chose to join in the assault with the ungodly Ahab, and, when he himself was in great danger in the battle, God graciously and mercifully delivered him. (18:31)

Returning to Jerusalem after these events, Jehoshaphat again spread the word of the Lord far and wide, also appointing judges to “*act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart.*” (19.9)

Later, in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30), we read that enemy forces were arraying themselves to attack Judah and on receiving the news that a great army was assembling to come against him, Jehoshaphat was fearful.

He immediately called for a fast throughout Judah and called all the people of the land together. When the people had gathered Jehoshaphat prayed, firstly acknowledging God’s sovereignty over all nations, and secondly proclaiming God’s “*power and might*”, such that “*no-one is able to withstand You.*” (20-6)

He then reminds the people of God’s actions in bringing them into the land and of their pledge at that time, that;

*“if disaster comes upon us....we will cry out to You in our affliction and you will hear and save.”* (20:9).

Then Jehoshaphat leads the people into crying out to the Lord. He humbly acknowledges their own lack of power and their helplessness against this great multitude that were threatening to attack, beseeching God, “*O our God, will You not judge them*”? and then speaking the words that are our focal point;

*“...Nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”*(20:12)

God’s gracious answer (20:15-17) is ;

*“Do not be afraid or dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s”*

He then gives specific instructions that they were to “*stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you*”, and a second time encouraging them to “*not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.*” (v.17)

*“And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshipping the LORD”. They praised the LORD with “voices loud and high”. (20:18-19)*

By obeying God’s word to go out against the enemy in the morning, Jehoshaphat did a remarkable thing. Verses 21 and 22 record that when they began to sing and praise, with the words *“Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever”* the Lord set ambushes against the enemy force and they were defeated, without Jehoshaphat’s army being engaged in battle at all!

Arriving back in Jerusalem, they assembled in the house of the Lord and rejoiced in their deliverance.

In APPLICATION to our own lives we have a wealth of observations to reflect upon.

On receiving the confronting news, Jehoshaphat and the people wasted no time in going straight to God and laying the matter before Him; there was no suggestion of first trying to work it out for themselves.

Together, Jehoshaphat and his people;

- Remembered and acknowledged the goodness of God experienced by His earlier actions on their behalf;
- Humbly acknowledged their own utter helplessness in the situation and placed their need in His hands;
- Worshipped, praised and thanked God in their dire situation;
- Listened to His word of instruction, not relying on their own reasoning;
- Stood together in unity;
- Trusted and obeyed.

The result was that all the other nations round about heard that the Lord had fought against and given them deliverance from their

enemies. *“Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.”* (v30)

Our key verse;

*“...nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You”*

became personally very meaningful many years ago, and what a treasure these words are to remember and be encouraged by. They may perhaps pull us up from immediately running here and there to find help in what we see as an insurmountable problem and trying to reason it all out on our own, instead of ‘being still’ and laying the whole matter in prayer before our Father prior to taking any other steps and waiting for His gracious guidance as to what those steps are to be.

Notice that twice God speaks the words to the King and his people;

*“Do not fear or be dismayed.”* (20:15 & 17)

The God of all comfort speaks this word to us also;

*“Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.”*  
(1 Peter 5:7, Amplified)

God gave to the people of Judah the encouraging words:

*“Be not afraid, for the battle is not yours but God’s”* (20:15)

Jehoshaphat and his people were given a good reason not to be afraid;

*“For the LORD is with you”* (20:17)

Let those words of assurance bless us, for if the Lord is with us there is nothing to fear. It is said of Jehoshaphat that *“his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD”*. (17:6) Day by day, in our beholding of the beauty of the Lord, may we too increasingly take delight in the ways of the Lord for;

*“As for God, His way is perfect;*

*The word of the LORD is proven  
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.” (Psalm 18:30)*

Prayer:

Father, may I continue to grow in learning to be still in times of trial, resting in the assurance and delight that ‘Your way is perfect’.