

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

AUGUST 2026

From my devotions on July 18th:

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 20:1-9,13-24

Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah under the divided monarchy. 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles record the history of the divisiveness of the people of God into two separate countries, Israel and Judah. Although many of the kings of both countries were evil in their orientation, often mixing with the other religions, Jehoshaphat was one of the better leaders in the Davidic line. Upon being established as king, he removed the symbols of pagan worship acquired from the Canaanites and he did not consult the Baals, the deities of the Canaanites. Like his ancestor, David, Jehoshaphat had a heart toward the Lord and promoted the Law of God as the standard for the people. Because of his faithfulness, the Lord was with him leading to the successes he had as king. Like his ancestor David, he was not perfect but he was good.

In the passage above (2 Chronicles 20), Jehoshaphat is seen living out the faith he held dear. Jehoshaphat was informed of an invasion by a league of foreign countries. Jehoshaphat assembled the people to proclaim a fast (a spiritual discipline used to draw closer to God) to seek help from the Lord. With this wholehearted commitment from Jehoshaphat and the people, the Lord responded through a chosen prophet, Jahaziel,

"Do not fear or lose heart at the sight of this vast multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's... Go down against them tomorrow...You will see them coming up... You will not have to fight in this encounter. Take your places and stand firm and see how the Lord will be with you to deliver you. Do not fear or lose heart. Tomorrow go out to meet them, and the Lord will be with you."

Jehoshaphat fell down in worship before the Lord God and admonished the people, *"Trust in the Lord, your God, and you will be found firm. Trust in His prophets and you will succeed."* The people did so and went forth singing, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy endures forever."*

At the moment they began their jubilant hymn, the Lord laid an ambush against the countries by causing them to fight among themselves, ultimately destroying each other. *When Judah came to the watchtower of the desert and looked toward the throng, they saw only corpses fallen on the ground, with no survivors.*

The roles of both God and His people are clearly defined in this story. The people are to remain faithful and trust God. As they do, God will deliver them. As we proceed forward as a Church, let us ever trust in the Lord and await God to fulfill all that God has promised.

With love,

