

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson
January 21, 2024
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Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—Overcoming Fear

Text—2 Chronicles 20:13-20

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Reconstruct the faith actions that led to Jehoshaphat's victory.
2. Acknowledge situations where they are overcome by immobilizing fear.
3. Set aside time each day to invite God's presence and help in their facing their fears.

Why This Lesson Matters: When we face opposition, many of us are tempted to give up because of fear period how do we loosen the grip of fear? The faith demonstrated by Jehoshaphat encourages us to overcome fear through trust in God.

Key Verse—(2 Chronicles 20:20c) *Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe his prophets, so shall you prosper. (KJV)*

Song of Praise and Worship: *"The Battle is Not Yours" by Yolonda Adams*

II. Points to be Emphasized

- a. Jehoshaphat's victory over the Canaanites follows a pattern from the Old Testament: Israel calls to God for help, after realizing their inability to save themselves, and God responds by protecting Israel and eliminating her enemies.*
- b. Jahaziel's words in verse 15 echo Moses' word in Exodus 14:13 when the Israelites were crossing the Red Sea.*
- c. Jehoshaphat and Judah not only worshipped God for hearing and answering their prayer, but also praised God for the victory.*
- d. Trust in God and the promise of God's protection is the solution for all fear.*

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The book of 2 Chronicles does not name an author, but tradition attributes authorship of 1 and 2 Chronicles to Ezra, sometime between 450 and 425 BC. Second Chronicles begins with Solomon's reign, and covers the same historical as 1 and 2 Kings. Historically, 2 Chronicles documents national events from Solomon's reign to the Exiles return from captivity in Babylon, taking note of the righteous kings of Judah. The chroniclers demonstrated purposes for the book were:

1. To review the rich Israelite history and heritage,
2. To emphasize that God remained faithful to his promises despite the nation's past sins,

3. To encourage God's people to remain faithful to him, and
4. To emphasize that obedience brings blessings.

Jehoshaphat was one of the most righteous kings of Judah in Chronicles. Jehoshaphat reinstated both religious and judicial reforms. The reforms that he instituted returned the people to exclusive worship of Yahweh. The judicial reforms were a return to the strength of God's law, weeding out corruption.

The setting of our lesson is when Jehoshaphat gets news of three nations combining themselves for war against Judah. The context of the lesson and the battle narratives set in Jehoshaphat's reign also bring out two primary theological lessons: the danger of foreign alliances and the importance of reliance upon God. Although Judah had an army of 300,000 trained soldiers Jehoshaphat knew that it was important to seek God in prayer and wait upon God to provide a response. Fear was not an option for Judah, especially when they decided to trust in the Lord.

IV. **Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson**

Jahaziel: the son of Zechariah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph" (2 Chron. 20:14).

Jehoshaphat: the 4th king of Judah; Son of Aisa and Azuba, the daughter of Shihi

V. **Key Terms in the Lesson**

- a. **Salvation (v.17)**—Hebrew: *yeshuah* (yesh-oo'-aw): *help; victory; security; "deliverance"* (NIV)
- b. **Spirit (v.14)**—Hebrew: *ruach* (roo'akh): *breath; wind; breath of life.*
- c. **Worshipping (v.18)**—Hebrew: *shachah* (shaw-khaw'): *bowing down; showing obeisance; prostrating oneself; "in worship"* (NIV)
- d. **Yahweh (v.13)**—Hebrew: *Yhvh* (yeh-ho-vaw'): *the proper name for the God of Israel; "Lord"* (KJV/NIV)

VI. **Topical Outline of the Lesson**

1. Introduction
2. A Devoted King Turns to God (2 Chronicles 20:13)
3. Our Prayer Answering God (vv. 14-17)
4. From Prayer to Praise (vv. 18-19)
5. An Exhortation to Trust In God (v. 20)

Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)

Looking back at your past and where you are currently, have there been some things or is there something or someone currently causing fear in your life? If the answer is yes, we have learned from our lesson that fear is not of God (2Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.), especially when He promises to have your back and to provide every resource and security that you will ever need.

Right away, and without hesitation, pray, trust in the Lord, submit yourself to him in worship, and receive your victory right now, in the name of Jesus!