

Intro: There are many such prayers recorded in the Scriptures. All of them are deserving of our close study so that we will be able to learn how to pray.

Note the alarming problem which Jehoshaphat and his people faced. See vv. 1, 2. Engedi was on the west side of the Dead Sea, in the land, less than 25 miles from Jerusalem!

~~Jehoshaphat really had no time to prepare for war, and, even if he had, he was outnumbered so greatly that the situation would have been disastrous for Judah.~~ GOOD THINGS ABOUT JEHOShAPHAT:

- 1) HE WALKED LIKE DAVID (17:3) 3) HE HAD TAUGHT HIS PEOPLE THE WORD (17:7-9).
2) HE REMOVED IDOLS (17:6) 4) HE HAD A WELL-TRAINED ARMY (17:12-19): 1,100,000 MEN
What did he do? 5) HE SET UP JUDGES OVER HIS PEOPLE (19:5-11).

HE HAD HIS FAULTS, TOO, IN CONNECTION WITH AHAB (CH. 18) - BUT SEE 19:3.
The best thing he could have done, and the safest: He prayed!
And he got his people to pray.

TURNED TO

Let us examine the contents of his prayer.

1) PRAYER.

2) GOD.

3) THE WORD.

4) THE JUSTICE OF GOD

5) THE MERCY OF GOD

I. THE POWER OF GOD (2 Chron. 20:6, 7).

Here we have 4 questions -- all having to do either with who God is, or what God does (or has done).

Here he was presenting the first of his arguments -- as a lawyer would plead his case before a judge.

II. THE PROMISE OF GOD (2 Chron. 20:8, 9).

How wise was King Solomon! He got the Lord to commit Himself to His people -- which was now Jehoshaphat's hope. Cf. 2 Chron. 6:28-31, and then 7:12-16.

III. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD (2 Chron. 20:10, 11).

Note how Jehoshaphat had been thinking: Would God spare these nations so that they could destroy His own people? Such thoughts gave him hope.

IV. THE PETITION OF THE KING (2 Chron. 20:12).

It contains his request, and three reasons why God should meet their need:

A. The request: "O our God, wilt Thou not judge them?"

Jehoshaphat started with questions, and that is the way he ended. This is really his prayer -- the very heart of it.

B. The reasons for his request:

1. Their helplessness: "We have no might against this great company that cometh against us."

This is often the only thing that will turn us to the Lord.

With God there are no impossibilities!

2. Their ignorance: "Neither know we what to do."

The wisdom of men is foolishness with God and the foolishness of God, Paul says, (if there were such a thing) is wiser than men!

Our two great hindrances to prayer are:

- 1) What we think we can do.
- 2) What we think we know.

When we get these set aside, what doors of blessing are opened up!

3. Their trust: "But our eyes are upon Thee."

Note how Jehoshaphat "goes out on a limb" in v. 20. Do we have this kind of faith -- that we will boast about the faithfulness of God before the answer comes?

Concl: What was the outcome?

There was one significant thing before these great powers met, and then there was the victory and the amazing way it came:

- 1) The singers went ahead of the army, praising the Lord and singing His Word.
- 2) Judah did not need to throw a spear nor make a single thrust with a sword. The enemy destroyed one another until they were all gone!

And it took Judah three days to gather the spoil!

These are days when these truths need to grip our hearts and to strengthen our faith as we face:

- 1) Personal problems.
- 2) National and international problems as they relate to the preaching of the Gospel.