



**Night is Darkest Before Dawn**  
**2 Chronicles 20**



Divided Kingdom

Syria

Mediterranean

Phoenicia

Samaria

Israel

Jordan River

Dead Sea

Ammon

Jerusalem

Judah

Moab

Edom

# Divided Kingdom

# **A Hopeless Situation**

(v 1-5)

- **Judah ganged-up upon by the neighboring countries.**
- **Vastly outnumbered**
  
- **Jehoshapat sought the Lord & declared a fast**
- **The people banded together & prayed**

# Heaven's Recipe for Abundant Living

- **God works most visibly in “hopeless” situations**
- **Ordained leaders are empowered to move God's heart** (*Jas 5:16 - The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*)
- **But they have to move their own flock first**
- **Willing submission by the flock is key**
- **Offer a sacrifice with prayer – fast (1 Chro 21:24)**

# **Jehoshapat's Prayer**

**(v 6-12)**

- **Positioned God as sovereign over all, but specifically over the particular problem**
- **Praised God for His relevant characteristics**
- **Sought God's favour as His people**
- **Traced God's guiding hand to the situation**
- **Resolved to stand on God's promises regardless of outcome**
- **Professed complete dependence on God for deliverance**

# God's Reassurance

(v 15-17)

- **Do not be afraid or discouraged because of .... For the battle is not yours, but God's!**
- **Take up your positions, stand firm & see the deliverance of the Lord ..**
- **Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.**
- *Our reassurance is in the Word which remains unchanging yesterday, today & forever (Heb 13:8)*

# Warfare – God's Way

(v 20-26)

- **Jehoshapat encouraged people to have faith in God**
- *Without faith it is impossible to please God ... (Heb 11:6)*
- **Placed singers at the head of the army to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness**
- *.. faith itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:7)*

# Warfare – God's Way

(v 20-26; con't)

- **As they began to sing & praise, the Lord set ambushes against the enemies (v 22)**
- *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will grant you the desires of your heart (Ps 37:4)*
- *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises (2 Peter 3:9)*
- *The joy of the Lord is my strength (Neh 8:10)*

# Warfare – God's Way

(v 24-30; con't)

- **Jehoshapat & his men arrived to see the enemy defeated & claim the enemies' belongings**
- **God gave them peace, rest from all sides**
- *God's blessings overflows upon us when we honor Him in our lives (Mal 3:10)*
- *We truly reap the abundant life – peace, joy & contentment (John 10:10)*

# God's Armour in Christ

| God's Armoury (Eph 6:13-18)    | Scriptural Authority   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Helmet of salvation            | <u>Ephesians 1:13</u> - And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your <u>salvation</u> .   |
| Belt of truth                  | <u>John 14:6</u> - "I am the way and the <u>truth</u> and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.  |
| Breastplate of righteousness   | <u>Romans 3:22</u> - This <u>righteousness</u> from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.  |
| Shoes of the gospel of peace   | <u>Isaiah 9:6</u> - And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, <u>Prince of Peace</u> .  |
| Shield of faith                | <u>Hebrews 12:2</u> - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the <u>author and perfecter of our faith</u> ..  |
| Sword of the Spirit (the Word) | <u>John 1:1-14</u> - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. ... <u>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.</u> |

# **Sensing the Times**

## **External Developments**

- **AWARE has polarised society even more**
- **Alternative lifestyle communities rife**
- **Separation of state & religion**
- **Mammon has lost its luster**
- **God's place as Provider & Protector revealed**
- **Wealth transfer to the East has begun**
- **But the same temptations will emerge**

# **Sensing the Times**

## **Internal Developments**

- **SIBI Pte Ltd**
- **Interns in Tuao**
- **LST& Sycamore**
- **Acapella Singing**
- **Maiden medical mission**
- **Missionaries in Philippines, Indonesia, China, Malaysia, India & more**
- **Growing church**
- **Willing & able members**
- **God in the Marketplace**

# **A Personal Invitation**

