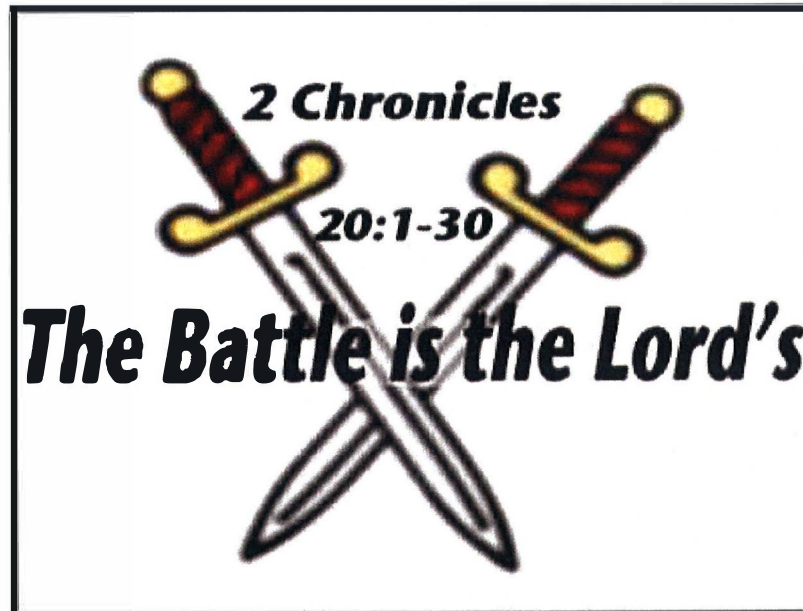


CHAPTER 13

How to Conquer Any Crisis

2 Chronicles 20:1-30



1. The Problem (2 Chronicles 20:1-2)

King Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah were about to be invaded by their enemies, and thus they faced a national crisis. This crisis was unique to Jehoshaphat and to the people of his day. Tomorrow you do not have to worry about being invaded by the Moabites! Yet, the way in which Jehoshaphat handled the crisis suggests to us certain principles which, if properly applied, can be used in conquering the crises and solving the problems that we face in our daily walk with the Lord.

2. The Procedure (2 Chronicles 20:3-22)

1) Seek the LORD for help (3-4).

The living God has the solution to our problem. Christ is greater than any crisis! Therefore, before we do anything else, we must turn to Him. The King (v. 3) and the people (v. 4) decided to seek the Lord's solution.

2) Recognize Who God is (6).

As the King prayed, he said, "Art not thou _____ in _____? (He's the Sovereign Lord) and _____ not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? (He's the Supreme Ruler), and in thine hand is there not _____ and _____, so that none is able to withstand thee? (He's the Almighty God)"

3) Remember what God has done in the past (7).

The God who drove out the Canaanites (in the days of Joshua) was certainly able to keep out the Moabites and Ammonites (in the days of Jehoshaphat). The God who gave them the land could certainly help them to keep the land. Likewise, is the God who saved you from eternal condemnation (your greatest problem) also able to deliver you from the lesser problems that you might face? _____ If He took care of your eternal needs, can He also very easily take care of your temporal, day by day needs? _____

4) Remember God's promise (8-9).

God promised that if His people should cry out to Him in their time of great distress, He would H_____ and H_____ (verse 9—the word 'help' means God would save and deliver and rescue them from the crisis). God will do the same today!

5) Give the problem to God (10-11).

Instead of holding on to the problem and worrying about it, what should we do according to 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:6?

Did King Jehoshaphat do this? _____

6) Acknowledge your inability to solve the problem in your own strength (12).

Jehoshaphat said, "We have no M _____" (verse 12). Who did have **might** (see verse 6)? _____ When is a believer strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)?

7) Confess your lack of wisdom (12).

The King also said, "neither known we _____ to _____" (verse 12). "I don't know the solution but I know Someone who does!" If a believer lacks wisdom in the middle of a great trial or crisis, what should he do (James 1:2-7)?

8) Make sure your eyes are fixed upon the LORD and not upon the problem (12).

Even though the King confessed that he and his people had no might and no wisdom, he confidently said, "but our _____ are upon Thee" (verse 12). When our eyes are fixed upon the Lord, the problem becomes very insignificant. The danger comes when we become so engrossed with the problem that we forget the Lord and we forget His promises. Who is one person in the New Testament who took his eyes off the Lord (Matthew 14:25-33)?

“For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

2 Chronicles 20:12 [paraphrase]

9) By faith, claim the promise that the battle is the LORD's (15-17).

In this remarkable battle, Who promised to do the fighting? _____ (verses 15 and 17). Did God say that the people would **fight** the enemy or that the people would **find** the enemy (verse 16)? _____ Is there a difference? _____ The battle belongs to God and not to us. God's responsibility is to solve the problem. Our responsibility is simply to trust Him. God never asked us to solve our problems in our own strength or in our own wisdom. God has the solution and there is no problem too big for God.

II CHRONICLES 20:15, 17

Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord.

10) Humble yourself before the LORD (18).

The King and the people bowed down before God in humble adoration and worship. In our particular problem or crisis, we must do the same. We must humbly recognize our weakness and claim God's strength (2 Cor. 12:9-10; Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1). We must humbly acknowledge our *insufficiency* ("I do not have the adequate resources to handle this problem or crisis") and realize the *sufficiency* of God (God does have the resources to handle and solve this problem—2 Cor. 12:9; John 15:5; Philippians 4:13).

11) Praise the LORD with genuine enthusiasm (19).

These Jews praised the Lord with an exceedingly loud voice. Each one put his whole heart into it! So too, we need to enthusiastically tell God how great He is (Psalm 34:1-3).

12) Bravely face the crisis (20).

The people rose up _____ in the morning and went out according to God's command (verse 20). They wasted no time in obeying God! The believer does not need to run away from the crisis (as we discussed in chapter 12). With full confidence in the LORD the believer can meet the problem head on. Did Daniel run away from the lions? _____ (He faced them and God took care of them!) The world does everything possible to avoid and escape their problems. The believer who has God as his Helper (Heb. 13:5-6) can enter the heat of the battlefield with full assurance of faith (compare Romans 8:31)!

Note: Even though the "battle is the LORD's" we are not to be passive as God solves the problem. There are some things that we are able to do and that God expects us to do. David did his part with his sling and his stones. God did His part with the giant (Goliath). In Acts 12:1-9 Peter had a problem. He was in jail and could not break his chains. That was something only the Lord could do. There was something, however, that Peter was able to do and which the Lord expected him to do. What was it?

13) Trust in the LORD and in His Word (20).

Faith is taking God at His Word. Faith is believing that God is able to keep His promises.

"B _____ in the LORD your God, so shall ye be _____" (verse 20). In other words, if you put yourself in His hands, He'll hold you up! If you come under His wings, He'll shelter and protect you! If you stand on the **Rock**, then you will be established on the **Rock** (Psalm 40:2)! God has spoken and said, "**The battle is the LORD's!**" Are we going to believe that word? Are we going to claim that promise by faith? "B _____ His prophets, so shall ye P _____" (have success—verse 20).

2 Chronicles 20:20 6

בִּידוּדָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

*Believe the Lord
and be established*

וְהִתְאַמְּנוּ הָאֲמִינוּ

*Believe His Prophets
and prosper*

כִּנְכִי אִין וְהִצַּל יְהוָה

14) Thank the LORD (21).

The expression "Praise the LORD" can be translated "Give thanks to the Lord." Philippians 4:6 tells us to pray and give our problems to the Lord "with _____."

Notice that the people gave thanks to God **in the middle of the crisis**, even before it was over. Later when the crisis was all over, they gave thanks again (see verses 26-28). We need to learn to give thanks in the middle of the problem and in the middle of the battle, and then again once God has conquered the crisis!

15) Sing and praise even though you do not yet see God's victory (22).

When did God begin to do His great work? "When they began to _____ and to _____" (verse 22). What did the Apostle Paul do in the middle of a prison cell (Acts 16:23-26)? _____

In 2 Chronicles 20:1 we are told that the invasion took place "after this," referring to the previous chapter. In chapter 19 King Jehoshaphat was strongly rebuked by the prophet Jehu because of his compromising alliance with wicked king Ahab. This rebuke proved effective as Jehoshaphat brought the people back to the Lord (verse 4). He also encouraged judges and priests to serve faithfully "in the fear of the LORD" (verses 7,9). Thus the King was seeking the LORD **before** the crisis ever came. Often we do not seek the Lord until the crisis or problem comes. We turn to God when we are in trouble! Jehoshaphat turned to God before the trouble came and when it did come, he was prepared!

3. The Provision (2 Chronicles 20:22-25)

God is faithful! He cannot fail! He never loses a battle! The people of Judah simply **found** the enemy (dead!); they did not have to **fight** them! They worked much harder gathering the spoil than they did in winning the battle (see verse 25).

4. The Peace (2 Chronicles 20:26-30)

The people blessed and thanked the Lord for the victory. The result was much joy and peace in the land and God's name was glorified! If we handle our problems and crises in the right way (Philippians 4:6), then what does God promise as a result (Philippians 4:7)?

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This concludes this set of notes on some of the crises of our day and how to handle them. May Christ be the solution to every crisis you face, as you seek Him and turn to His Word!