

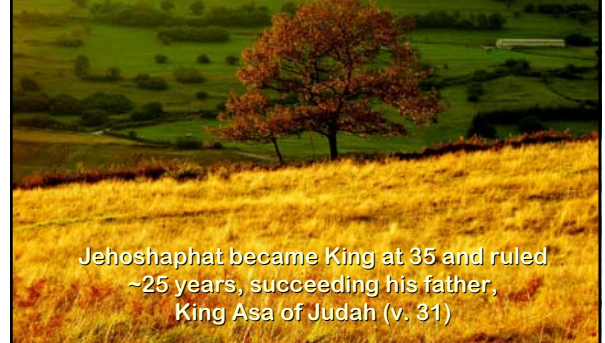
“...Victory’s Dawn”

2 Chronicles 20:1-37



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Journey 2427
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King Jehoshaphat was a godly man who loved the Lord and who ruled IAW the commandments of God.



Jehoshaphat became King at 35 and ruled ~25 years, succeeding his father, King Asa of Judah (v. 31)

The Scriptures testify to the godly character of Jehoshaphat...

“The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his (spiritual) father David’s earlier days and did not seek (‘worship,’ NLT) the Baals, but *sought the God of his father, followed His commandments*, and did not act as Israel did (‘follow evil practices/ways,’ NLT). So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.”

2 Chronicles 17:3-5, NASB

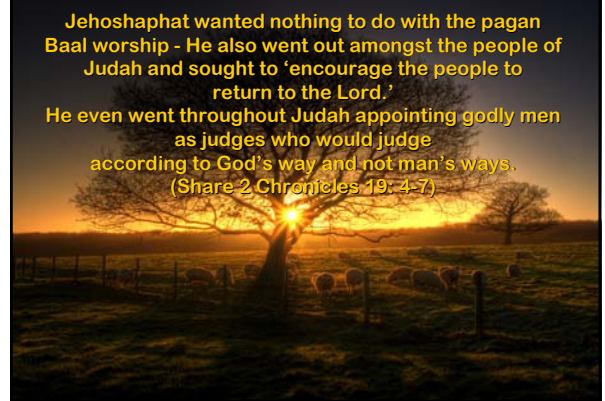
“Jehoshaphat — a man who sought the Lord with all his heart ... his heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord”

2 Chronicles 22:9 & 17:6

A True Servant Leader of the Lord...

Jehoshaphat wanted nothing to do with the pagan Baal worship - He also went out amongst the people of Judah and sought to ‘encourage the people to return to the Lord.’

He even went throughout Judah appointing godly men as judges who would judge according to God’s way and not man’s ways.
(Share 2 Chronicles 19: 4-7)



Despite Jehoshaphat’s godly character and rule, this did **NOT** exempt him from the threat of REAL trouble / life challenges. He lived in a turbulent period of time in Israel’s history where threats of wars and pagan worship was a real, pressing issue.

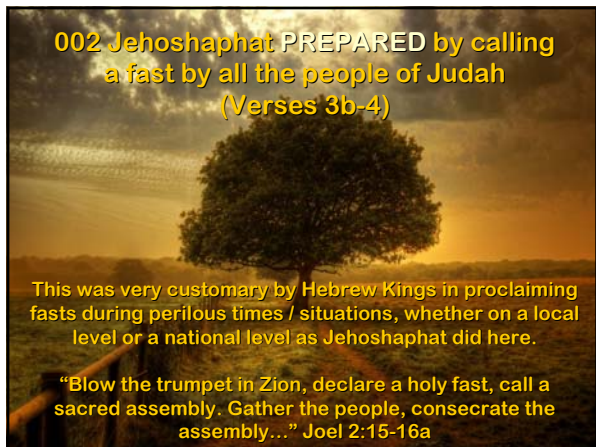
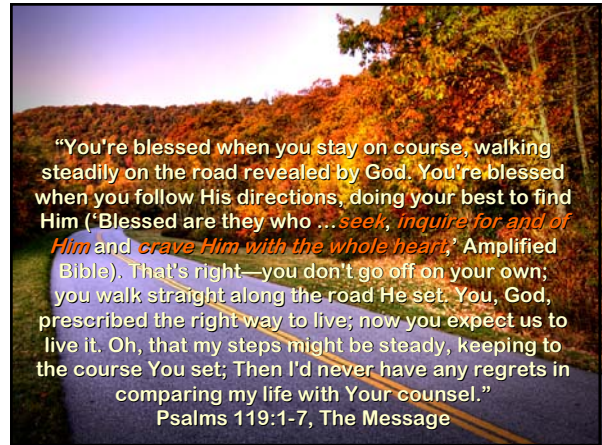
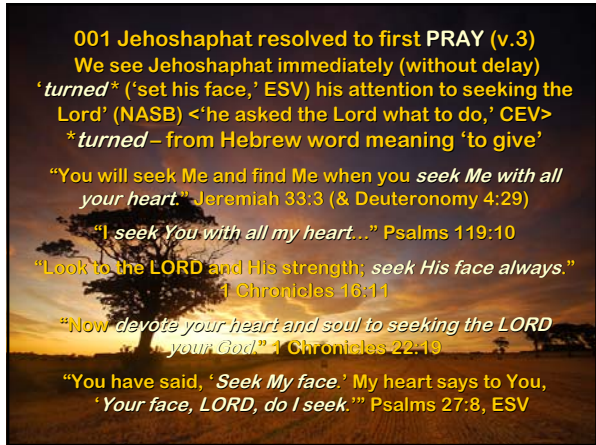
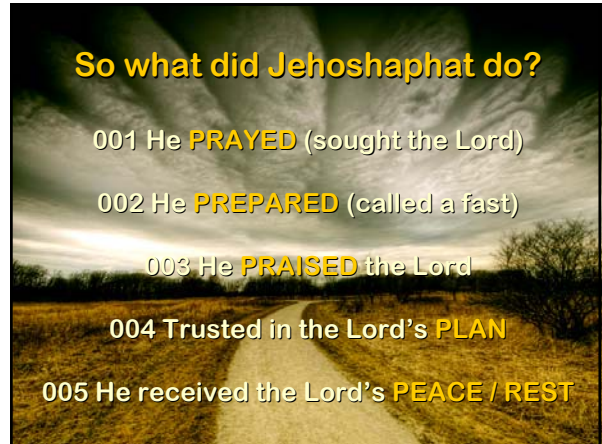
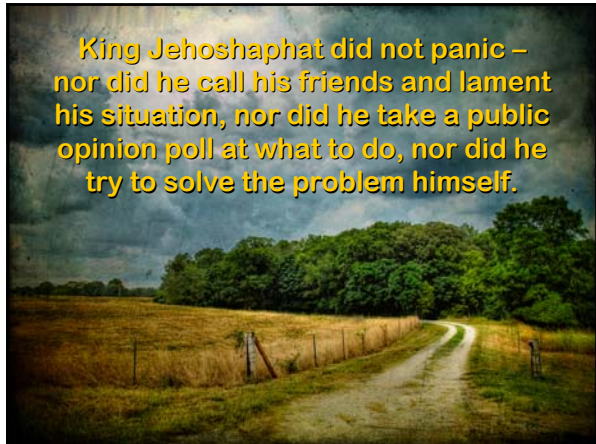


Verse 2 – “A vast army is coming *against you...*”

A man’s response in a time of personal crisis reveals a great deal about his true inner character!

Hearing the news of the approaching three armies and the impossibility of victory before he and Judah, Jehoshaphat faced a very bleak dilemma.

His honest first response was like that of any of us facing a certain death: he ‘was afraid’ (‘alarmed, NIV / ‘fearful,’ NKJV) (verse 3) Yet he used that fear not to lead into bondage as the devil would like; rather, he used it positively to drive him to the **ONLY** One who could help him & the nation of Judah in this dire situation!



004 Jehoshaphat trusted in the Lord's Divine PLAN (vv. 12-13)

Jehoshaphat acknowledged before God and the people of Judah the 'impossibility' of victory by their own merit (military might / wisdom insufficient – they were 'powerless' against these approaching armies).

He shared his bewilderment in this situation ...
"We do not know what to do" (v. 12)

Yet he acknowledged that their "eyes were upon the Lord" (v. 12, paraphrased)

004 Jehoshaphat trusted in the Lord's Divine PLAN (vv. 14-17)

God's plan divinely came thru the prophet Jahaziel ...

Verse 15 – "This is what the LORD says to **you**:
'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army.

For the battle is not yours, but God's."

"...for the battle is the LORD'S" 1 Samuel 17:47

"The Battle(s) we are facing is (are) not Ours, but His!"

God told His people in the days of the prophet Isaiah, just like with Jehoshaphat, just as He tells us today ...

"The battle is not against you. It is Satan's rage against me — against the Lord who abides in you." God said to Satan, "I know where you abide, and where you come and go, and your rage against Me." (Isaiah 37:28)

Pastor David Wilkerson once wrote,
"Our Lord knows the raging of Satan, and I must truly believe He will act. He will bring us through floods and fires, and put to chase all spiritual enemies. Here is God's Word concerning what he will do: "Because of your rage against me...and it has come into my ears, therefore I will put a hook in your nose, and my bridle in your lips, and I will turn you back by the way you came" (Isaiah 37:29). If you will hold fast to your faith — trust Him, rest in His promises, reject all lies of Satan coming at your mind — then expect Him to come by His Spirit into your situation and bring an expected end to your particular battle. God will move heaven and earth to deliver you and make a way. The way out is to trust - trust - trust!"

Source: "Are You a Merciful Person?" Pastor David Wilkerson, 7.20.2007

One of Satan's greatest weapon in his arsenal of attacks against us is **DISCOURAGEMENT** when we face impossibilities and don't know what to do!

If Satan can get you to give up, then he wins even before the battle begins!

... If you believe the battle is yours, you're in big trouble from the start!

... If the battle is ours (collectively), then we're all in big trouble!

... But if the battle is the Lord's, we're going to be okay - regardless of the outcome!

A Fast Heart Check...

So where is/are your battle(s)? In your marriage? In your business or job? In your finances? In your health? In your faith walk? Does your battle get more intense day after day? If you have a heart for Jesus and a desire to cleave to Him, you will face the rage of hell. But it is still not your battle!

You can end your battle quickly by simply quitting and giving in to your fears and doubts. Satan will not bother those who give up their confidence in the Lord...that's a FACT!

Yes, the battle is the Lord's, but we have our part — and that is to trust and believe in the face of hopelessness and what often seems to be impossibilities...for without God, they are!

"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

*"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
Mark 10:27*



Verses 18-19 Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah – by faith / trust in the promised Victory from the Lord - “*fell down in worship before the Lord*”

“*Worship the LORD your God, (for) it is He who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.*”
2 Kings 17:39



004 Jehoshaphat trusted in the Lord's Divine PLAN (vv. 21)

Music touches the heart and soul at a level too deep for words! Music doesn't replace preaching nor is it an alternative to prayer, but music takes the words of the sermon and delivers them to the heart, and it helps to lift our spirit to believe in the words we have shared in prayer!



The group in 2 Chronicles 20:21 chosen to sing / praise the Lord with music was not just a group of believers who spontaneously decided to praise God! They were the Choir of Israel! This is the same group of men appointed since the days of David to do the ministry of song/music in Israel.

“These are the men (families of the tribe of Levi) David put in charge of the music in the house of the LORD after the ark came to rest there. They ministered with music before the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon built the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. They performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them.”
1 Chronicles 6:31-32



Are *you* praising the Lord today *regardless* of all your circumstances, no matter what they may be? Whatever your problems may be today, never forget that your Lord God is your “only” true solution. He alone has the answers for all your problems / circumstances.

“I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you. For you have upheld my right and my cause; you have sat on your throne, judging righteously.” Psalms 9:1-4

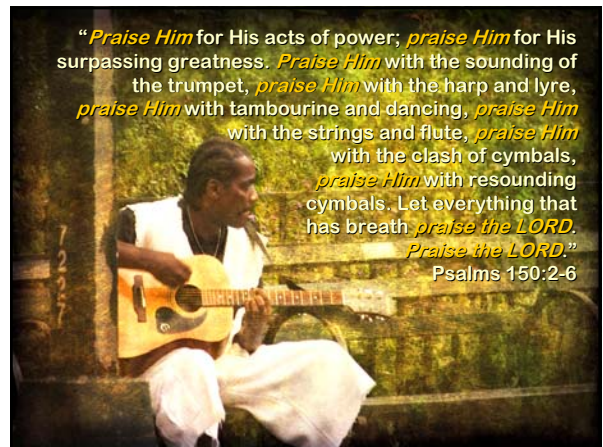
“I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.” Psalms 145:2-3, NLT



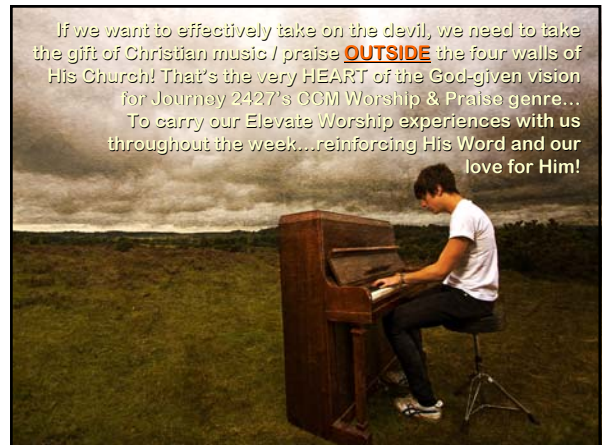
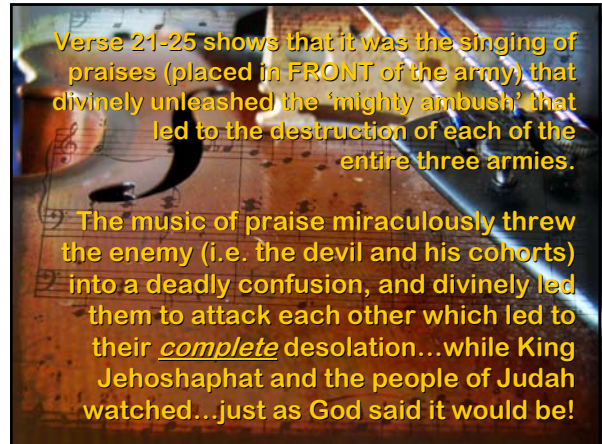
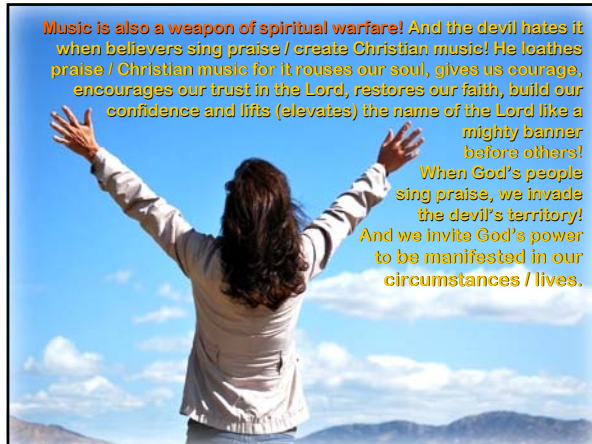
“The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt (elevate) Him.” Exodus 15:2

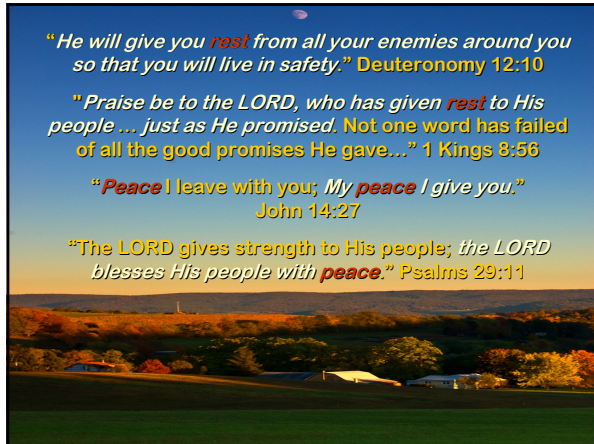
“He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.” Psalms 40:3

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.”
Psalms 149:1, NLT



“Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with tambourine and dancing, praise Him with the strings and flute, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.”
Psalms 150:2-6



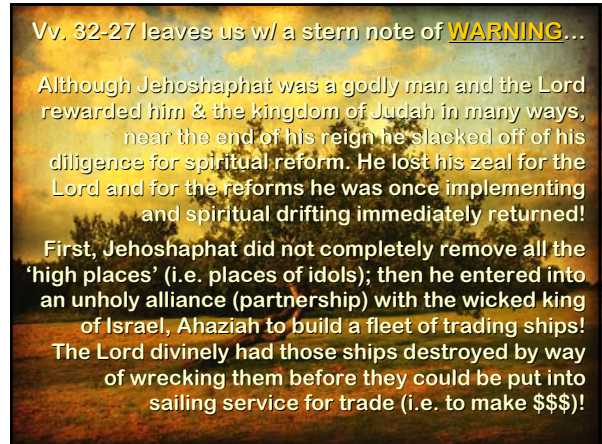


*"He will give you **rest** from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety." Deuteronomy 12:10*

*"Praise be to the LORD, who has given **rest** to His people ... just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave..." 1 Kings 8:56*

*"Peace I leave with you; My **peace** I give you."
John 14:27*

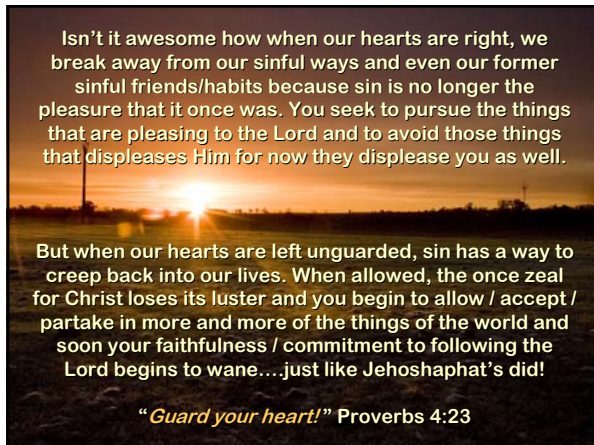
*"The LORD gives strength to His people; the LORD blesses His people with **peace**." Psalms 29:11*



Vv. 32-27 leaves us w/ a stern note of **WARNING**...

Although Jehoshaphat was a godly man and the Lord rewarded him & the kingdom of Judah in many ways, near the end of his reign he slacked off of his diligence for spiritual reform. He lost his zeal for the Lord and for the reforms he was once implementing and spiritual drifting immediately returned!

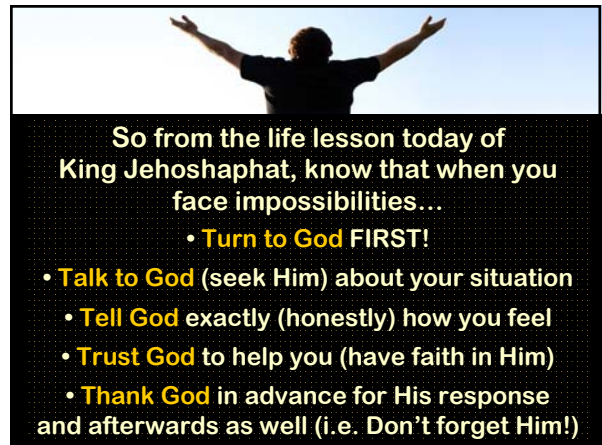
First, Jehoshaphat did not completely remove all the 'high places' (i.e. places of idols); then he entered into an unholy alliance (partnership) with the wicked king of Israel, Ahaziah to build a fleet of trading ships! The Lord divinely had those ships destroyed by way of wrecking them before they could be put into sailing service for trade (i.e. to make \$\$\$)!



Isn't it awesome how when our hearts are right, we break away from our sinful ways and even our former sinful friends/habits because sin is no longer the pleasure that it once was. You seek to pursue the things that are pleasing to the Lord and to avoid those things that displeases Him for now they displease you as well.

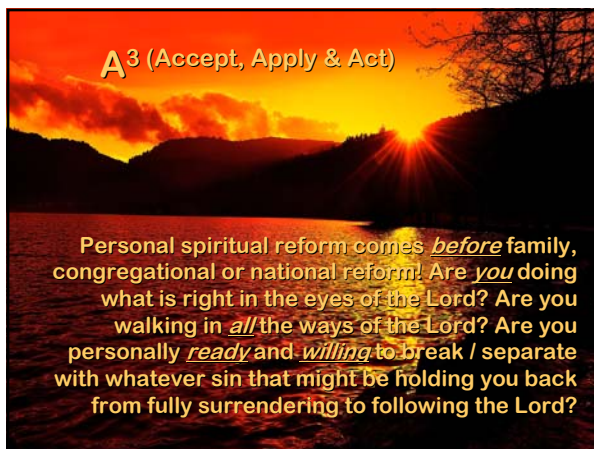
But when our hearts are left unguarded, sin has a way to creep back into our lives. When allowed, the once zeal for Christ loses its luster and you begin to allow / accept / partake in more and more of the things of the world and soon your faithfulness / commitment to following the Lord begins to wane....just like Jehoshaphat's did!

"Guard your heart!" Proverbs 4:23



So from the life lesson today of King Jehoshaphat, know that when you face impossibilities...

- **Turn to God** FIRST!
- **Talk to God** (seek Him) about your situation
- **Tell God** exactly (honestly) how you feel
- **Trust God** to help you (have faith in Him)
- **Thank God** in advance for His response and afterwards as well (i.e. Don't forget Him!)



A³ (Accept, Apply & Act)

Personal spiritual reform comes *before* family, congregational or national reform! Are *you* doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord? Are you walking in *all* the ways of the Lord? Are you personally *ready* and *willing* to break / separate with whatever sin that might be holding you back from fully surrendering to following the Lord?