

**Our Eyes Are Upon You!**  
(2 Chron. 20:12)

**Intro:** One of the great benefits of having the OT is being able to see God at work among His people. Paul reminds us that those things are written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope (Rom. 15:4).

Our lesson today comes from the narrative of one of Judah's greatest kings, **King Jehoshaphat**. The chronicler tells us the moving story of a time of great crisis in his kingdom and how the Lord intervened to help His people.

Let's see what happened.

**Crisis in the Time of Jehoshaphat**

*A vast army was invading Israel.*

*"After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle." (2 Chronicles 20:1, ESV)*

*There was no time to prepare.*

*"Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi)." (2 Chronicles 20:2, ESV)*

See map, the enemy was already in the land. Keil suggest that the army was no more than 15 hours away from Jerusalem.

*Jehoshaphat was very fearful and called upon the nation to join together for a prayer meeting accompanied by fasting.*

*"Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD." (2 Chronicles 20:3–4, ESV)*

*The king himself stood before the people and in great faith he prayed to the Lord for His aid in this helpless situation. Jehoshaphat's prayer showed great faith in the:*

*Power and sovereignty of God*

*"and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you." (2 Chronicles 20:6, ESV)*

*Purposes of God*

*"Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name..." (2 Chronicles 20:7–8, ESV)*

*Promises of God*

*Jehoshaphat recalled the words of Solomon at the dedication of the temple:*

*“If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.” (2 Chronicles 20:9, ESV)*

*Providence of God*

*“And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” (2 Chronicles 20:10–12, ESV)*

*Jehoshaphat knew that in this case He and His people were helpless and were in the hands of the Lord. Was it a misplaced trust?*

***God gave the answer they needed (the Spirit of God came upon a man among them named Jahaziel; and he revealed the message the Lord had given.)***

*“And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:15–17, ESV)*

***When the Jehoshaphat heard these words, he fell to the ground to worship the Lord along with all the people. The priests likewise spontaneously began worshipping with a loud voice.***

***And the Chronicler tells us that the prophecy came to pass just as the Lord had said. The Lord intervened amazingly to turn the armies of Israel’s enemies against each other. When the army of Jehoshaphat arrived they found the whole area filled with the bodies of those who had slain each other. They only had to retrieve the spoils of battle without having to fight. They returned to the house of the Lord with praises of gratitude upon their lips for the wonderful answer they had received.***

***What a marvelous testimony to divine intervention, and what a lesson for us in our time of crisis. Jehoshaphat’s example can teach us what to do in .***

**Crisis in our time.**

In times of crisis...

***We often find ourselves feeling clueless. We may not know what to do or even what to pray for; but God gives this assuring promise in times of crisis:***

*And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)*

What a great promise this is! Even when we don't know what to do, the Holy Spirit conveys in intercession to the Father what we need. His teaching ministry in us also works through us to bring about what we need.

***We need to put our eyes squarely upon the Lord and like Jehoshaphat trust in his power, his purposes, his promises, and his providence.***

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:26-28)*

Contextually it appears that Paul is discussing how God responds to our needs in times of suffering and crisis. What a blessing to know that God causes all things to work together for the good of His people.

***The Lord will give an answer.***

That answer came to Israel by a random prophecy by the Holy Spirit. God no longer uses such acts of prophesy; but He still promises to provide the wisdom we need.

*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

In order to attain wisdom there are three things we need to do:

Seek His will in Scripture.

Watch for an act of providence.

Confirm our interpretations with wise people.

If only we would in our time of need do as Jehoshaphat did: "We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you!"

*And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (1 John 5:14-15)*

**Conclusion: One thing every person needs to see is the crisis he finds himself in because of his sin against the Lord. We need to humble ourselves before the Lord and seek him and say, "Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you!" In His power He has stated His purpose and provided an answer to the most important question we'll ever ask, "What must I do to be saved?" He has already provided the victory; but we must show our trust by...**

***Believing in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ***

***Repent of our sins***

***Upon confession of our faith, be baptized in His name.***

**When we do we also will have passed through the valley of blessing; and we will forever be able to praise the Lord in His presence for what He has accomplished for us through His son Jesus Christ.**