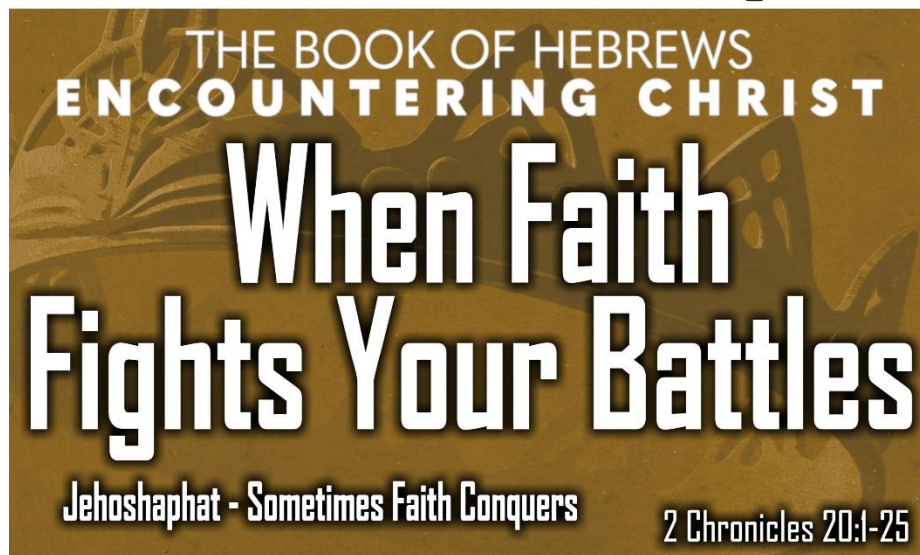




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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 330 (IN THE OT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

A. Meet King Jehoshaphat

1. Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah while Ahab and Jezebel ruled the northern Jewish nation of Israel.
2. Judah prospered under King Jehoshaphat.
3. 2 Chron. 17 describes Judah as economically blessed, militarily strong, highly fortified, and respected by most nations.
4. "A vast army" came against Judah to steal its gold and diamonds.
5. These armies represented an "overwhelming threat" that God used to teach Judah to:
 - Depend on God
 - Display salvation comes from God
 - Decide upon faith during battle
 - Defeat enemies "without the sword"
 - Declare God's holy name to the nations

Our weakness is a better weapon than our strength, for it leads us to lean on God. Jehoshaphat's strength lay not in his armies, but in his faith in God.

- G. Campbell Morgan

B. What do we do when we face "vast armies?"

We Put Our Faith in God!

1. Faith Releases the Battle to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:3-4, NASB95 - ³ Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

2. Faith Realizes Our Own Inadequacies.

2 Chronicles 20:12, NASB95 - ¹² "O our God...we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

3. Faith Relies on God's Resources, Not Our Own.

2 Chronicles 20:14-17, NASB95 - ¹⁴ Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel [a Levite and High Priest] the son of Zechariah... ¹⁵ and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude. for the battle is not yours but God's...'" ¹⁷ 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them. for the Lord is with you.'

4. Faith Raises Praise Before Victory Comes.

2 Chronicles 20:18-22, NASB95 - ¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. ¹⁹ [They] stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice. ²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established..." ²¹ When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." ²² When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah: so they were routed.