

LET GOD ARISE!

*Revival
Prayer Guide #8
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



Set Our Eyes on the Lord: Revival under Jehoshaphat 2 Chronicles 20

All My Hope Is in the Lord

Don L. Davis

All my hope is in the Lord
In Christ, Who died for me
And all my glory and my boast
I give to Calvary.

Upon the Cross, His sacred brow
The crown of thorns did wear
And in his body gladly bore
My sin and sorrow there.

So let all futile, worldly things
Their lure and luster fade
And in their place, my vision be
Of full atonement made.

And when my dying breath escapes
Let this my refrain be—
That “All my hope is in the Lord,
I boast in Calvary.”

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Our eyes are upon you, O God

2 Chron. 20.5-12 - And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, [6] 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. [7] 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? [8] And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, [9] ‘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.’ [10] 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— [11] behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. [12] 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.”

Keep your eyes ever toward the Lord

Ps. 25.15 - My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Ps. 121.1-2 - I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? [2] My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Lift up your eyes to the Lord, who alone can show mercy to us

Ps. 123.1-2 - To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! [2] Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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Take refuge in God as you look to him for help

Ps. 141.8 - But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

Hold in yourselves the sentence of death and rely only on God

2 Cor. 1.8-9 - For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. [9] Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

God alone can vindicate his people when they are vulnerable and powerless

Deut. 32.36 - For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

The Lord arises to defend the poor and helpless

Ps. 3.7 - Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

Ps. 12.5 - “Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”

Ps. 35.1 - Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!

Ps. 35.23 - Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord!

Ps. 44.26 - Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!



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Ps. 68.1-2 - God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! [2] As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

The Lord himself will fight for those who trust in him

Exod. 14.13-14 - And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. [14] The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

Exod. 14.25 - clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

2 Chron. 20.22-23 - And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. [23] For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

No one can withstand those who fear the Lord and trust in his Word

Num. 14.9 - Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.

Deut. 20.3 - and shall say to them, “Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them.”

2 Chron. 20.17 - 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



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and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.

Ps. 27.1-2 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? [2] When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Ps. 46.1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, [3] though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

God will keep us in perfect peace because we trust in him

Isa. 26.3 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isa. 30.15 - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling.

Phil. 4.4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Take confidence in the words of Scripture—God will fight our battles

2 Chron. 32.8 - “With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.



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Ps. 46.7 - The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Selah

Isa. 8.9-10 - Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; give ear, all you far countries; strap on your armor and be shattered; strap on your armor and be shattered. [10] Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

Isa. 41.10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Believe in the Lord and you will be established

2 Chron. 20.20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”

John 11.40 - Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

Rom. 8.31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Heb. 11.6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Believe in God, believe also in Jesus

John 14.1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.



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Acts 3.15-16 - and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. [16] And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

1 John 2.23 - No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

Exod. 14.31 - Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. ■

SOME INDIVIDUALS, who are basically well meaning and who strive to do what is right, are also very naive and easily misled. King Jehoshaphat fitted squarely into this category. For even though he was a pious and successful monarch, he nevertheless had to be repeatedly censured by God's holy prophets. Four of them rebuked and corrected him when he became entangled in ungodly alliances and relationships. Jehu, the son of Hanani, charged him with helping Ahab and those who hated the Lord (19.2). Eliezer, the son of Dodavahu, charged him with being unequally yoked in a shipping venture at Ezion Geber (20.36-37). Micaiah, son of Imlah, roundly rebuked him for joining with Ahab to venture against Ramoth Gilead (18.16). And the Levite Jahaziel encouraged him as he went out to battle against the eastern nations (20.14-17). But for all of Jehoshaphat's sins and weaknesses of character, he mastered the discipline of prayer. And few chapters in the Bible can better illustrate the effectiveness and power of prayer than 2 Chronicles 20. If 2 Chronicles 7.14 serves as the paradigm for the whole book, as I have argued, then chapter 20 and the events narrated from the life of Jehoshaphat focus on an important component of all revivals: prayer.



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The preaching of the Word moves men and women to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and to turn from their wicked ways and seek God's face in a renewed way. Prayer moves God to graciously pour out the blessing of heaven on sinners, undeserving as we are.

~ Walter C. Kaiser, *Quest for Renewal*.

Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1986, pp. 89-90.

No matter how godly and sincere you may be, you can wind up depending on the wrong people, bad advice, and phony solutions.

This is precisely the journey that King Jehoshaphat walked in his reign over Israel. What is significant is not that the man or woman of God may find themselves in trouble, but how do they handle that trouble, i.e., to whom do we look when we are in desperate need of help?

When you are in trouble, real trouble, who you gonna' call?

Revival comes during times of recognized need, when trouble, calamity, and danger loom over us, and we are quite literally forced to seek the Lord as the ground of our life and the source of our hope. When Jehoshaphat was confronted with a huge malevolent army determined to wipe Israel from the face of the map, he did not seek human allies or military solutions. Jehoshaphat was afraid, and set his face to seek the Lord, and commanded the people to join him in that spirit of prayer, dependence, and humility:

2 Chron. 20.1-4 - After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. [2] 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). [3] Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.



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[4] And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

Growing up as a boy, my mother used to make it plain that the key to living in God is not confusing what your role in life is with God's role. Truly, Jehoshaphat's prayer reveals a deep understanding of who God is and what God (and only God) can do in the face of our enemies and eminent destruction.

Kaiser nicely summarizes Jehoshaphat's vision of prayer in five propositions that underscore his view of God:

1. God rules over all kingdoms of the nations (2 Chron. 20.6)
2. God delights to do what he has promised to do (2 Chron. 20.7-11)
3. God judges all who oppose his work (2 Chron. 20. 12)
4. God delivers us from all our distresses (2 Chron. 20.14-17)
5. God upholds those who believe him and his Word (2 Chron. 20.18-30)

What is striking in this simple outline is the focus: *God and God alone* must be the source our of hope, our life, and our strength. Amazingly, nothing reminds us of our neediness and finiteness before God more than real trouble, the kind we can't easily shake loose and won't simply be resolved or go away. The kind of trouble that keeps us awake at night, that gnaws on the spirit, and wearies our hearts and minds from anxious deliberation and overmuch thinking. The kind of trouble that no pat answer or glib comment can satisfy or silence.

In the midst of facing unusual horror and being on the brink of total annihilation, Jehoshaphat addressed the Lord. Standing in the assembly, he prayed a simple prayer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and asked for his aid and deliverance:



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2 Chron. 20.5-12 - And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, [6] 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. [7] 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? [8] And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, [9] '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.' [10] 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— [11] behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. [12] 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."

“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.” We are powerless; we are ignorant, but our eyes are on you.

Nothing reveals the heart of revival like the focus of the soul, where our hope is, where our eyes are. The one (or ones) to whom you turn when you are in trouble are revealed to be the sources of your hope and strength.

For Jehoshaphat, this source during the time of trouble was the Lord. I have always said that Jehoshaphat didn't quite tell that truth in this prayer. Actually, he did have power—he was the king of Israel, and he did know what to do—he had plenty of generals who would have provided him a plan, if he had asked. Jehoshaphat didn't care about his kingship or military



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power; when facing destruction, he went to the source, relied upon his God, and God, in a mighty deliverance, gave him the victory.

Ironically, God's reply was given by Jahaziel, which was literally fulfilled the next morning: 2 Chron. 20.15: 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.'" In a glorious scene with the choir marching before the army, God delivered the surrounding armies up to Judah without their aggression. God caused confusion among them, and they destroyed themselves—a striking end with none of the armies escaping, and so much bounty in terms of spoils that three days of gathering wasn't sufficient to retrieve it all (cf. vv. 24-26). On the fourth day the people blessed the Lord for his amazing deliverance and great provision.

What an amazing picture of true revival! Simple yet profound. God does not need our help, he only needs our awareness of our helplessness, and our belief in his Word that if we trust in him and him alone, deliverance, victory, and provision will come. This is both the soil and the fruit of revival: believing the Lord, believing his prophets, and leading the army with a chorus of thanksgiving.

2 Chron. 20.20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."

What will it take for us to be made aware that we are powerless against the multitude coming against the city, nor do we know what to do? Truly, may we, like Jehoshaphat and the fasting nation, turn our eyes to the One who alone can provide us with grace and help in this, our desperate time of need. Amen. ■



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Example of Believing Confidently in the Lord's Word: Jehoshaphat

2 Chron. 20.20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."

Biblical Principle of the Month

Revival results from the deeply held conviction and realization that, in the face of our spiritual enemies (the world, the flesh, and the devil) who seek our destruction, only one answer suffices. God through Christ alone is our source of victory and deliverance. We are powerless against our foes, and do we know what to do about them, but, if we turn our eyes toward God and believe his Word, he will come to us, deliver us, and lead us into his perfect will.

2 Chron. 20.12 - 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 Chron. 20.15-17 - 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. [16] 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. [17] 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."



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